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CONFIDENTIAL.

F.O. 424/27B

F.O.
424

CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

CONSUL BURTON'S PROCEEDINGS

AT

DAMASCUS.

1868-71.

27
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CONFIDENTIAL.

Correspondence respecting Consul Burton's Proceedings at Damascus.

No. 1.

Lord Stanley to Consul Burton.

(No. 1.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 3, 1868.

I HAVE to state to you that the Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint you to be Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus in the place of Mr. Rogers, who has been appointed Her Majesty's Consul at Cairo, and I herewith inclose a certified copy of Her Majesty's Commission to that effect.

Your experience of the details of the Consular service renders it unnecessary for me to furnish you with instructions with regard to your duties at your new post. I need only remind you that Her Majesty's Government attach great importance to the punctual transmission to this office of the various returns required by the General Consular Instructions, and of any further information which you may be able to obtain relating to commerce and navigation, or any other branch of statistics.

The salary attached to this appointment is at the rate of 700*l.* a year, and an allowance of 300*l.* a year will be made to you for office expenses.

You are restricted from engaging in commercial pursuits, and all fees by law leviable by Her Majesty's Consuls are to be collected on account of Her Majesty's Government in conformity with the directions given in Paragraph 9 of the General Instructions.

Your salary and allowance will be issued to your assigns at the office of Her Majesty's Paymaster-General in London, in equal quarterly payments, and they are to cover, so far as this office is concerned, not only the expenses of your maintenance, but also the ordinary expenses of your Consulate.

Such of the fees as are collected under the Orders in Council relative to Consular Jurisdiction in the Levant (Judicial Fees) must be dealt with in accordance with the orders which you will find in the Consulate.

A sum of 100*l.* is assigned to you for outfit.

I am, &c.

(Signed) STANLEY.

No. 2.

Consul Burton to Mr. Hammond.—(*Received May* 12.)

(Separate.)

Sir, *Buenos Ayres, March* 30, 1869.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Lord Stanley's despatches of December 3 and 7, 1868,* and to request that you will be good enough to convey to Lord Stanley the expression of my best thanks for the honour which Her Gracious Majesty has done me, in appointing me through him Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus.

I have the honour to add that I have only this day, on my return from a tour over the Andes, received my appointment and commission as Her Majesty's Consul at

* Instructing him at once to proceed to his post.

Damascus, and consequently that I return to England on my way to my post by the next Royal Mail steam-packet leaving on April 26. In the meantime I intend to utilize the delay by proceeding to Paraguay in order to finish a Report upon the present exceptional and sanguinary war, which I had already commenced in a former journey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

No. 3.

Mr. Elliot to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received May 12.)

(No. 45. Commercial.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 3, 1869.*

IT is my duty to inform your Lordship that the prospect of the arrival of Captain Burton, as Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus, is viewed with apprehension by many persons connected with that place.

Damascus is probably the most fanatical town in the Empire, and the presence there, in the character of British Consul, of a person who had penetrated to the Prophet's shrine, is regarded as certain to cause exhibitions against him that may be productive of very undesirable consequences.

By the Mussulman population Captain Burton is regarded either as having insulted their religion by taking part as an unbeliever in their most sacred rites, or else as having, at that time, been a Mahomedan and having become a renegade.

Under either supposition he would be regarded with aversion by most, and with hatred by very many of the population, and it is my duty to draw your Lordship's attention to a consideration which was probably lost sight of when Captain Burton was selected for the post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 4.

Consul Burton to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received June 3.)

(Separate.) *Howlett's Hotel, Manchester Street, Manchester Square, June 1, 1869.*
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that on my return to Buenos Ayres (March 29, 1869,) I received Lord Stanley's despatch No. 1 of 1868 transferring me to the Consulate of Damascus. I set out for my new post with the first departure of the Royal Mail on April 26, 1869, and arrived in England on this day. I am now awaiting, before continuing my journey to Damascus, any further orders with which your Lordship may be pleased to honour me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

No. 5.

Consul Burton to Mr. Murray.—(Received June 15.)

(Separate.) *Howlett's Hotel, Manchester Street, Manchester Square, June 14, 1869.*
Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your official letter of June 7, 1869,* and to return thanks to the Earl of Clarendon for having allowed me six weeks' leave of absence before proceeding to my new post at Damascus.

I beg, however, to state that I have been advised, after my last attack of hepatitis in the Brazil, to prepare for another residence of some years in a hot climate by a course of Vichy waters. His Lordship would, therefore, confer upon me an additional favour by permitting me, after reporting departure from England, to proceed to Beyrout *viâ* Vichy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

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* Granting six weeks' leave.

No. 6.

Mr. Murray to Consul Burton.

(Separate.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 19, 1869.*

WITH reference to your Separate despatch of the 14th instant, I am directed by the Earl of Clarendon, in communicating to you his Lordship's sanction of the arrangements therein proposed for your proceeding to your post, to take this opportunity of repeating to you what his Lordship has already verbally stated to you, that very serious objections to your appointment at Damascus have reached him from official quarters, and that, although Lord Clarendon has allowed that appointment to go forward on receiving from you assurances that the objections raised were unfounded, his Lordship has warned you that that if the feeling stated to exist against you on the part of the authorities and people at that place should prevent the proper performance by you of your official duties, it would be his Lordship's duty immediately to recall you.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JAMES MURRAY.

No. 7.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Elliot.

(No. 41. Commercial.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 22, 1869.*

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 45, Commercial, of the 3rd ultimo, I inclose, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a despatch which has been addressed to Consul Burton,* placing on record what I have stated to him personally, regarding the serious objections which, according to your Report, are entertained to his appointment as Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

No. 8.

Consul Burton to Mr. Murray.—(Received June 30.)

(Separate.) *Howlett's Hotel, Manchester Street, Manchester Square, London, June 21, 1869.*
Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Separate despatch of the 19th instant, and to express my gratitude for the sanction with which his Lordship has favoured me.

I now renew in writing the verbal statement in which I assured his Lordship that neither the authorities nor the people of Damascus will show for me any but the most friendly feeling; that they will, in fact, receive me as did the Egyptians and the people of Zanzibar for years after my journey to Mecca. But, as designing persons may have attempted to complicate the situation, I once more undertake to act with unusual prudence, and, under all circumstances, to hold myself only answerable for all the consequences.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

No. 9.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Elliot.

(No. 48. Commercial.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 2, 1869.*

I INCLOSE, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a letter from Captain Burton,† in reply to the one addressed to him upon the subject of the objections raised

* No. 6. † No. 8.

to his appointment as Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus, a copy of which was sent to your Excellency in my despatch No. 41, Commercial, of the 22nd ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 10.

Consul Burton to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received July 17.)

(Separate.)
My Lord, *Howlett's Hotel, 36, Manchester Street, July 16, 1869.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I leave England this day *en route* for the post at Damascus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

No. 11.

Mr. Elliot to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received July 18.)

(No. 290.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, July 5, 1869.*

RASHID PASHA, the Governor-General of Syria, in the course of his visit to me this morning, asked, with some anxiety, whether Captain Burton was expected to proceed to the Consulate of Damascus.

I said that I believed he might shortly be expected there, but that he had been warned by your Lordship to be extremely careful to avoid doing anything calculated to give offence, or to create susceptibility on the part of the people of Damascus.

Your Lordship, I observed, could not properly cancel an appointment made by your predecessor, but had laid strict injunctions upon Captain Burton, which he would not be likely to neglect; and in return for these I trusted that the authorities would exert themselves to prevent his being subjected to any annoyance.

His Excellency answered that a British Consul who would be regarded as a renegade Mussulman must necessarily find himself in a very difficult position.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 12.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Elliot.

(No. 57. Commercial.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 20, 1869.*

WITH reference to your despatch No. 290 of the 5th instant, which should have been included in your Consular series, I have to state to you that I approve of the language held by you to the Governor-General of Syria in regard to Captain Burton's appointment.

Captain Burton left this country on the 16th instant, on his way to his post.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLARENDON.

P.S.—I have to add that I gave Captain Burton leave to go to Vichy, and not to proceed to his post till October, when, according to Consul-General Eldridge, the unhealthy season will be over.

No. 13.

Mr. Wood to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 11.)
My Lord, *Damascus, October 6, 1869.*

I HAVE the honour to report the arrival, on the 3rd instant, of Captain Richard Burton. Not being furnished with the requisite Berat, he was unable to enter into official relations with the Local Authorities, though he has exchanged friendly unofficial visits with Rashid Pasha. I am, therefore, still in charge of this Consulate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES M. WOOD.

No. 14.

The Earl of Clarendon to Mr. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 28, 1869.*

APPLY to Porte at once for issue of Berat to Captain Burton as Consul at Damascus.

No. 15.

Mr. Elliot to the Earl of Clarendon.—(Received October 29.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October 29, 1869.*

BERAT was sent to Consul-General Eldridge on the 8th instant, immediately on receiving telegraphic intimation of Captain Burton's arrival.

No. 16.

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(Received September 9.)

(No. 11.)
My Lord, *Damascus, August 28, 1870.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

Inclosure in No. 16.

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Damascus, August 28, 1870.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that troubles were expected in Damascus yesterday (Saturday, August 27) when the Redif was being mustered. Crosses had been drawn on the ground and in the water-closets of the mosques, as happened in 1860. Christians had been threatened in the streets and bazaars, many families left the city, and in some instances the newly-arrived troops showed a hostile animus. The Ottoman authorities, however, have been alive to a sense of their danger, and as long as they do their duty there will never be a massacre at Damascus. The Redif, including those from Aleppo and elsewhere, and now numbering 1,600 men, was sent out of the city, not through the Christian quarter, where there would have been a disturbance, but rid the Dahdah and the Zaynabyeh to the villages of Kusayr, Sawwan, and Kabun, distant about one hour's ride. Here a camp has been pitched for them, and they will be drilled for a month.

The Moslem population has been excited against the Christians, unjustly attributing to the latter the mustering of the Redif, which has never yet been called out at Damascus. I have the honour to bring to your Excellency's notice the admirable conduct of his Excellency Holo Pasha, formerly acting Mutsarrif of this city, and now

transferred to St. John d'Acre. He has patrolled the streets in person during every night, and has been ceaseless in his endeavours to arrest the evil intentioned. It is with regret that I see such a man transferred to Acre, instead of being placed at some important post at Hamah, Tripoli, or other disturbed district, where his presence would be a benefit to Syria. His views have been thwarted by Said Effendi Ustwdani, President of the Majlis Tamyiz el-Hukuk, a fanatical and bigoted man, who refuses to receive Christian testimony, and who, relying upon the interest of his Excellency Rushdi Pasha, gratifies his prejudice against aliens to his faith by stirring up the bad feelings of the Mostems.

Amongst the minor officials I would bring to your Excellency's notice the names of Ismail Agha and Serur Agha. The former is Acting Commandant of Police at Damascus during the absence at Jerusalem of his Chief, Mustafa Bey. Had the latter been in this city, my belief is that the lives of the Christian population would have been in imminent danger. The second has lately been made Yuzbashi of Police, and is well known in the dangerous and excitable Maydan quarter; he has set an excellent example, and deserves reward. He will receive none if Mustafa Bey return.

His Excellency the Wali Rashid Pasha is still at Jerusalem. His Excellency the Mushir Mohammed Rifat Pasha left Damascus at a day's notice on Thursday, the 26th instant. We regret the departure of this officer, whose courtesy and readiness to oblige were exceptional at Damascus. Until yesterday, when his Excellency Ibrahim Pasha received his orders to take charge, there was no Mutasarrif, or Governor of the city. We have, therefore, been living almost without authority, and the Christians mainly owe their safety to the excellent conduct of the three officers above mentioned.

Since my letter of the 11th of July, 1870, one Protestant school has been closed, and three others were threatened with closing by the local Mudirs, who acted, they said, under orders from Damascus. I at once procured a counter-order from his Excellency Holo Pasha, then acting Governor of the city, and no complaints upon the subject have since reached me. The closing of the schools is generally attributed to the animus excited by the ill-judged proceedings of Mr. Mentor Mott.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

No. 17.

Aali Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, January)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Constantinople, le 11 Janvier*, 1871.

VOTRE Excellence trouvera, ci-joint, la copie d'une note verbale confidentielle adressée à l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique à Constantinople, relativement à M. Burton, Consul d'Angleterre à Damas.*

Ainsi que vous le relèverez de la lecture de cette pièce, la présence de cet Agent à Damas ne saurait se prolonger plus longtemps sans de graves inconvénients. Son Excellence Sir Henry Elliot, appréciant la justesse de nos griefs contre M. Burton, va écrire à son Gouvernement. Votre Excellence voudra bien dans le cas où Lord Granville l'entretiendrait de cette affaire, faire en sorte d'amener le remplacement de cet Agent.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) AALI.

No. 18.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received January 31.)

(No. 25. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 15, 1871.*

THE Confidential Memorandum of which I have the honour herewith to inclose a copy, is the extract of a letter from the Governor-General of Syria to Aali Pasha, complaining of Captain Burton, Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus.

What is stated of the good reception given to Captain Burton by the authorities on his arrival at Damascus, notwithstanding the repugnance with which they viewed his appointment, is perfectly correct; but, although it was boasted of by him at the time,

* Inclosure in No. 18.

it was entirely owing to my having told the Governor-General, who feared some exhibition of fanaticism, that I held him responsible for Captain Burton being received with all the respect due to a British Consul.

I must do his Excellency the justice to say, that he faithfully kept the promise which he then made me.

It is difficult to be accurately informed as to what is doing by our own Agents at such a distant place as Damascus, and I am slow to accept the criticism passed by hostile, and perhaps interested, parties, or by Turkish officials, who may have had differences with them; but your Lordship is aware that I have for some time back been apprehensive that Captain Burton's proceedings were of a nature to give ground for anxiety, although it would have been impossible for me to bring forward any one act sufficient to justify a recommendation of his removal from his Consulate.

The complaint of the Governor-General, embodied in the Memorandum now inclosed, is likewise founded upon Captain Burton's character and general proceedings.

I had heard vaguely and unofficially of the occurrence mentioned in the Memorandum, when Mrs. Burton was said, with her own hand, to have horse-whipped a person whom she considered as having failed in showing the respect she thought due to her, and when a shot was fired by one of her attendants; but an unwillingness to have the name of a lady brought forward in such an affair had prevented me from inquiring into it.

Although the emoluments of the Consulate at Damascus were raised upon the appointment of Captain Burton, I have always questioned the necessity of keeping it up upon the present scale; and I am only waiting for the report of Mr. Kennedy before submitting the question of its reduction to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 18.

Note-Verbale.

(Confidentielle.) *Le 11 Janvier*, 1871.

LORSQUE M. Rogers, ex-Consul d'Angleterre à Damas, fut désigné pour le poste du Caire, la nomination de son successeur M. Burton produisit une fâcheuse impression sur les lieux. Le séjour de M. Burton dans le Hedjaz, où il avait embrassé l'Islamisme, faisait craindre que la population de Damas ne vît pas avec plaisir l'arrivée du nouveau Consul. Il n'en fut rien pourtant.

La considération dont jouit en Turquie un Consul d'Angleterre est telle que le passé de M. Burton ne fut pas remué, et que le Consul rencontra partout un accueil favorable, notamment auprès des autorités locales. En effet, celles-ci firent tout ce qui dépendait d'elles pour entretenir des rapports amicaux avec lui et le traitèrent sur le même pied que ses collègues, quoiqu'à proprement parler M. Burton ne soit pas un Consul comme les autres. La Sublime Porte ne veut pas s'étendre ici sur la conduite personnelle de cet agent, sur ses longues et fréquentes absences, au point que les relations des autorités Impériales avec lui et ses propres affaires en souffrent. Elle ne veut pas non plus s'occuper des excursions qu'il fait de tous côtés, accompagné de sa dame, exposés tous les deux à toute espèce de périls, ni des chasses aux bêtes féroces auxquelles ils se livrent dans les défilés les plus suspects, et où les accidents de tout genre sont probables.

M. Burton va dresser sa tente aux confins du désert, la promène dans les villages les plus éloignés, campe pour plusieurs jours dans les cités les plus sauvages. Comme homme M. Burton n'intéresse personne; c'est comme Consul d'Angleterre que sa présence devient inquiétante à Damas, et c'est ce que la Sublime Porte croit devoir faire connaître confidentiellement à Sa Majesté Britannique.

Malheureusement, M. Burton a, on ne sait pour quel motif, une aversion toute spéciale pour la nation Musulmane, et ce qui rend surtout son attitude hostile le plus étrange c'est qu'elle est diamétralement opposée à la politique de son Gouvernement vis-à-vis de la Turquie et à la conduite de ces prédécesseurs. Dans ses conversations avec tout le monde, et jusque dans celles qu'il a avec le Gouverneur-Général de Syrie, il ne cesse de représenter les Musulmans toujours surexcités, les Chrétiens épouvantés, d'où il ne tarde point à faire naître des massacres, et toutes ces idées absurdes, tous les pronostics funestes qu'il puise dans son imagination, il les soutient et les propage dans un moment où la Syrie n'a jamais joui d'une tranquillité et d'une sécurité aussi parfaite dans un moment où les relations entre Chrétiens et Musulmans non seulement sont très

bonnes, mais tendent encore à devenir meilleurs, grâce à l'exemple donné par les autorités. M. Burton n'hésite pas à avancer ces mêmes idées dans les lettres qu'il écrit au Gouverneur-Général. Ses sentiments et ses dispositions se sont fait jour d'une manière plus éclatante encore dans un incident qui eut lieu récemment.

Le Consul d'Angleterre habitait dernièrement avec sa femme dans un village éloigné de quelques heures de Damas. Madame Burton allait un jour à l'église, lorsqu'elle fouetta de sa propre main un jeune Musulman qui ne s'était pas levé sur son passage; ensuite un de ses domestiques fit feu sur ce même jeune homme sous prétexte qu'il aurait été insolent pendant qu'on le fouettait. Quoiqu'une enquête soit ouverte en ce moment, M. Burton ne veut pas poursuivre l'affaire régulièrement et légalement; mais travestissant le fait, il finit pas revenir sur son thème favori et dire que les Chrétiens sont menacés, que la sécurité dans les environs n'existe plus, qu'on est à la veille des événements de 1860. Cette idée a tellement pénétré dans l'esprit de M. Burton qu'à l'occasion de la dernière note Russe, il ne doutait plus d'une guerre. De là à un soulèvement en Syrie il n'y a qu'un pas pour lui, et il a répété partout qu'il réunirait les 4,000 ou 5,000 Algériens qui se trouvent en Syrie pour se mettre à leur tête et protéger les Chrétiens. M. Burton est allé jusqu'à dire qu'il avait demandé à son Gouvernement l'autorisation d'en agir ainsi. D'où il faut conclure que cet Agent désire réellement et à tout prix que des désordres se produisent pour qu'il puisse jouer probablement un rôle et se faire remarquer.

Tel est ce Consul, chassant les ours, désertant sa chancellerie, négligeant ses affaires et celles des autorités locales, médisant de la population Musulmane, qu'il représente sous les couleurs les plus fausses, ayant les relations les plus intimes avec les gens les plus malfamés dans les pays et les plus compromis dans les événements passés; permettant à sa femme de se promener en ville portant sur elle des armes à feu, afin d'indisposer les Musulmans et de donner à entendre aux Chrétiens que la sécurité est compromise; rempli de malveillance marquée envers les autorités, qu'il bafoue dans ses conversations ici et dans les correspondances qu'il publie dans le "Levant Herald." Musulman naguère lui-même, il a en horreur aujourd'hui les Musulmans; tel est le Consul que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique a envoyé à Damas, et avec lequel les autorités Impériales ont fait jusqu'à ce jour et continuent à faire des efforts infructueux pour entretenir des relations cordiales. La présence de M. Burton à Damas est d'autant plus pénible que la population a toujours considéré le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique comme l'allié le plus sincère de la Turquie et le plus sympathique aux Musulmans, tandis qu'aujourd'hui cette même population, en face des faits et gestes du nouveau Consul, est à se demander si les dispositions de l'Angleterre ne sont plus les mêmes.

En lui exposant exactement l'attitude et la conduite de M. Burton, le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères espère que l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique n'hésitera pas à prendre à son égard les mesures qu'il a justement méritées par sa manière d'agir.

No. 10.

Aali Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, March)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Constantinople, le 23 Février*, 1871.

POUR faire suite à ma dépêche du 11 Janvier, je m'empresse de vous transmettre, ci-joint, la traduction d'un télégramme que je viens de recevoir du Gouverneur-Général du vilayet de Syrie, concernant M. Burton, Consul d'Angleterre à Damas.

Ainsi que vous le relèverez de la lecture de ce télégramme, l'attitude de cet Agent devient de plus en plus intolérable. Vous voudrez bien, M. l'Ambassadeur, dans vos entretiens avec Lord Granville faire ressortir les graves inconvénients de la conduite de M. Burton et amener son remplacement.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) AALI.

Inclosure in No. 10.

Rashid Pasha to Aali Pasha.

(Traduction.)
(Télégramme.) *Le 18 Janvier*, 1871, v. s.

J'AI eu l'honneur d'exposer précédemment en détail la conduite inconvenante de M. Burton, Consul d'Angleterre à Damas.

Aujourd'hui cet Agent dit ostensiblement à tout le monde que, sur la demande de l'Angleterre, le Gouvernement Impérial va bientôt déclarer la guerre à la Russie, et qu'il n'y a pas de doute que la population Musulmane de ces contrées ne massacre alors les Chrétiens. M. Burton s'occupe constamment de répandre de pareils bruits dangereux pour la tranquillité publique. Le Consul-Général d'Angleterre à Beyrouth connaît les faits et gestes de cet Agent, les regrette vivement, mais il ne peut pas les empêcher.

De son côté, Madame Burton se promène chaque jour dans la ville et seconde ainsi les vues de son mari. L'on sait, il est vrai, que M. Burton est un homme exalté; mais, comme il a la qualité de Consul d'une Grande Puissance, la population attache quelque importance à son attitude. Je prends donc la liberté de signaler la nécessité absolue de remédier promptement à cet état de choses.

No. 20.

Mr. Kennedy to Earl Granville.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 8.)
My Lord, *Cairo, January* 30, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship the following observations respecting Consular arrangements in Syria, which admit of being considered independent of the general questions of British Consular arrangements in the Ottoman Empire.

Her Majesty's Consul-General for that Province is vested with jurisdiction over the Consulates of Alleppo, Damascus, and Jerusalem, and various Vice-Consulates.

Syria is inhabited by people of various and opposite character, differing in race and religion, divided into several distinct communities, of which none predominates over the others, and yet having interests so intermingled that mere local questions excite general concern; and thus a movement, which in its commencement is a purely local affair, may at any moment spread over the whole country. In no part of Turkey is such care required to prevent actual causes of discontent, personal ambition, or sectarian rivalries from leading to an outbreak. It is, therefore, more necessary in Syria than in other countries that Consular action should be uniform.

I would not recommend that any alteration should be made with respect to the footing of the Aleppo Consulate; but it is advisable that the Consul at Aleppo should furnish the Consul-General, more regularly than now appears to be the case, with copies of all his political despatches, especially of those relating to Arab affairs.* Beyrout and Damascus are so near, and communication between the two places by means of a good carriage road on which a daily coach runs, as well as by telegraph, is so easy, that in the abstract it would seem better to station resident Vice-Consuls at those places, both to be under the direct superintendence of the Consul-General, who should reside at, or visit each place, according to the requirements of the public service. The Governor-General of Syria, to whom he is accredited, resides chiefly at Damascus. Even should it be expedient to maintain a full Consulate at Damascus, either to preserve equality with the Agents of other powers, or for general political considerations relative to the importance of the place, it would be for the advantage of the public service to place the post immediately under the Consul-General.

The present emoluments of the Consulate at Damascus are 700*l.* a year salary, and 300*l.* office allowance; if placed on the revised footing 500*l.* and 200*l.* a year, respectively would be sufficient.† The salary assigned to the Consul-General, 1,000*l.* a year, is sufficient; but his office allowance, 250*l.* a year, does not defray actual office expenses. I would submit that it should at once be raised to 300*l.* with 100*l.* extra as a salary for the first Dragoman.‡ But if the Consul-General should be directed to visit Damascus as well as reside at Beyrout,—which, inasmuch as during the summer he is compelled, on

* Instructions to this effect have been given.
† The Consulate at Damascus has been reduced to a Vice-Consulate on this footing.
‡ These increases of allowance and salary have been made.

account of the climate, to take a house in the Lebanon, and is thus between the two places, could easily be done,—the office allowance must be further raised, and its amount must be again increased if an arrangement which I venture to think would be very beneficial, should be adopted, namely, that he should be instructed to visit annually different parts of his large Consular District, so as to become thoroughly cognizant with current local events.

I do not recommend any alteration in regard to the Consulate at Jerusalem; except that, if the Porte continues to object to Mr. Kayat's appointment as Vice-Consul at Jaffa, the duties of the post should be intrusted to the Consul at Jerusalem.

The post is necessary, and so long as there is no qualified resident to hold it, the arrangement I suggest seems to be the only practicable course to pursue. The Consul at Jerusalem should maintain an office, with a clerk or a Dragoman, at Jaffa, and the salary, 100*l.* a year, might be given as a personal allowance to mark clearly the precise nature of the arrangement.*

Statements made to me respecting British trade in Northern Syria induce me to think that a Vice-Consulate, to be held as a salaried post by a British subject, is much wanted at Alexandretta. It is now an unpaid Vice-Consulate, and is vacant owing to the difficulty of finding a suitable person to take it.

British commercial interests have already increased in that part of the country both as regards transit trade and cultivation for exportation; and on that account, as well as to provide for the great changes which railway works will bring about, and to give that security which the presence of an intelligent English agent confers, I beg to recommend the establishment of this post. The emoluments should not be less than 250*l.* salary and 100*l.* office allowance a-year; the climate, too, is now so unhealthy that the post could not be held long. I would therefore add, that it would be an advantage to the public service, and also to the officer himself, if it should be understood to be a junior post, as a rule not to be held for more than four years.†

The salary of the Vice-Consulate at Beyrout, 350*l.* a-year, is quite adequate, if it is regarded as a junior post.

In regard to the Cyprus Consulate, which, as being also apart from other Consular arrangements in Turkey, may likewise be dealt with in this Report, I would submit that the post which is now vacant should be given to Mr. Lang, the present Acting-Consul; or, if he is not disposed to accept it, to Mr. Biddell. Both these gentleman are British subjects, and merchants of the highest respectability. There are no great British interests at Cyprus, but the island lies away from other Consulates; British trade is increasing; protection is wanted for British subjects there; and for these reasons, as well as to provide for contingent events, the maintenance of a Consular establishment there is necessary. The present salary of the post is 250*l.* and 50*l.* office allowance. I am of opinion that an office allowance of 150*l.* or 100*l.* a-year, without salary, would be remuneration for the post, adequate alike for public requirements and the services needed of a Consul engaged in commerce; and I would further observe, in passing, with reference to my future Report, that there are other places where similar arrangements might advantageously be made; often British interests require the presence of a Consul or Vice-Consul, though the requirements are not such as to justify a salary on the scale which is necessary when such salary forms the whole source of the Consular Officer's income ‡

The arrangements I have now suggested will, I feel sure, prove advantageous to public interests, and they can, moreover, be carried out without entailing eventually, any additional charge to the Exchequer. There would be a saving of 300*l.* a-year at Damascus, and 150*l.* or 300*l.* at Cyprus; the latter, which can be effected at once, will provide for the proposed increase at Beyrout, and the former for the Vice-Consulate at Alexandretta.

There is another matter which, although it adverts to Turkey generally, I will here advert to so far as it relates to Consular arrangements in Syria, namely, the position of Consular Dragomans. There cannot be a doubt that it would be a vast benefit to the public service generally, and to individual British interests, if British subjects were trained for these appointments. Some additional expense would be incurred, but I feel bound to say that the result would be worth its cost, and I think a scheme would be devised, without difficulty, for carrying out such a system. Moreover, it seems that dragomans, natives of the country, only temporarily employed, who are engaged in

* This arrangement has been sanctioned.

† The Board of Trade considered the salaried post unnecessary, and an unpaid Vice-Consul has since been appointed.

‡ Mr. Lang has been appointed Consul, with 100*l.* a-year office allowance.

political duties, or in pressing the settlement of claims, are necessarily placed in positions of great difficulty. They cannot avoid giving offence to persons of influence. Besides, they are always underpaid and often unpaid. It is said that it is a general custom of all such dragomans to undertake the settlement of claims other than those which they officially support, on their own private account, receiving half or more of the amount recovered. In the existing state of judicial administration in many places this may well be so. Mr. Abcarius, the first dragoman of the Consulate-General, has spoken very openly to me on these matters. On occasions when I have availed myself of his services he has shown great ability as an Interpreter; and Mr. Eldridge, Mr. Black, the principal British merchant at Beyrout, Mr. Lang, Acting Consul in Cyprus, and others, have spoken in very high terms of him.

I would recommend that, at all events, the first Dragomans of these Consulates should be taken into direct Government employment and receive their salary from Government instead of from the Consul. With that view I have suggested that on the increase of the office allowance at Beyrout, 100*l.*, a-year should be assigned to the First Dragoman, and deductions equivalent to the salaries which might be assigned to these officers could be made from the present officers' allowances at Damascus and Jerusalem. I am uncertain which of the dragomans at Damascus Captain Burton would recommend for the post, but at Jerusalem Mr. Salami, an efficient public servant is well deserving of the appointment.

As a condition attached to such appointments these dragomans would require permanent protection. When their active services ceased they would be entitled to pensions, and would require protection to be extended to them, as it is now granted to two old, though unpaid, public servants in Syria, Dr. Meshaka at Damascus, and Mr. Tabbett at Beyrout.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. M. KENNEDY.

No. 21.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received March 6.)

(No. 11. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February 14, 1871.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship Mr. Kennedy's Report upon the Consular establishment in Syria, and, in accordance with your Lordship's instructions, I will accompany it with such remarks as his recommendations seem to call for.

The first of them has reference to the Consular establishment of Damascus, which he proposes to reduce to a lower scale than that upon which it is at present.

I am not aware of any reason which makes it necessary to keep up a first-class Consulate within such a short distance of the Consulate-General, and it may be open to question whether the political reasons adverted to by Mr. Kennedy are sufficiently strong to prevent the reduction being carried even further than he suggests.

I do not as a rule think it necessary that the rank to be given to our Consular Agents should depend upon that of the Agents of other countries; but, in the peculiar position of Damascus, it would not be desirable that ours should hold a lower rank than those of France and Russia, and if those Powers were to maintain Vice-Consulates there, we might be justified to do the same.

I certainly concur in Mr. Kennedy's remarks upon the insufficiency of the office allowance for the Consulate-General of Beyrout, and hope the increase which he proposes may meet the most favourable consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

The establishment of a paid Vice-Consulate at Alexandretta is much called for in the interest of British trade, which will, moreover, greatly increase whenever the works of the Euphrates Valley or Tigris Valley Railway may commence, and I believe we may confidently expect that this will take place at no very remote date.

The work for a British Consul at Cyprus is so small that it might probably be satisfactorily performed in the manner suggested by Mr. Kennedy at a saving of half its previous cost, although the principle of intrusting the Consular duties to a merchant of the place is one of doubtful expediency.

With regard to Jaffa I would state that the Porte's refusal to consent to the nomination of Mr. Kayat may be looked upon as final, not on account of any feeling against that gentleman, but as a matter of principle, from which they are determined not to depart, and the alternative suggested by Mr. Kennedy appears the best arrangement that could be made.

His suggestion that Her Majesty's Consulate at Aleppo should be directed to send to the Consul-General at Beyrout copies of all his political despatches, and especially those relating to Arab affairs, deserves, I think, to be acted upon, for it is certainly desirable that the Consul-General in Syria should be kept fully informed upon everything of political interest that passes among the Arabs.

Mr. Kennedy has brought under your Lordship's consideration the position of the First Dragoman of the Consulate-General of Beyrout, and has recommended his receiving a direct appointment and salary out of the proposed increased office allowance, and an assurance that British protection should be continued to him after his retirement.

The first part of the proposal appears very proper, but I would submit that the promise of indefinite protection would be undesirable.

Independent of the objection to an extension of the vicious system of protections, which I have been striving to keep within the narrowest bounds, it is to be remembered that Turkish subjects are recognized as dragomans to the Consulates on the distinct understanding that our protection of them ceases with their functions, and the Ottoman authorities would have an undoubted right to refuse to recognize certificates of protection at variance with that arrangement.

The regulations of the Porte on this matter, which have long been acquiesced in by the foreign Representatives, had probably not been made known to Mr. Kennedy when he brought forward the suggestion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 22.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 20. Commercial.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April 10, 1871.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatches Nos. 25, Confidential, of the 15th of January, and No. 14, Confidential, Commercial, of the 18th of February, I transmit herewith copies of two despatches from Aali Pasha to Musurus Pasha relative to Captain Burton's proceedings at Damascus, and requesting his recall.*

I should be glad to receive from your Lordship a further Report on this matter, and to have your opinion in regard to it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 23.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 41. Commercial.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 22, 1871.*

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch No. 20 of the 10th instant, asking for my opinion in reference to a complaint of the Porte of the proceedings of Captain Burton at Damascus, and to their request for his recall.

Your Lordship is aware that for some time past I have not been satisfied with the manner in which Her Majesty's Consulate at Damascus has been conducted, Captain Burton not having succeeded in giving greater satisfaction to the British subjects—whether Christian missionaries or protected Jews—than to the Ottoman authorities, and I cannot withhold the opinion that he is not well suited to the post which he occupies.

The complaint made by the Porte of his habit of spreading alarming news of impending massacres agrees with information which reached me through other independent channels, but neither that, nor the alleged frequency of his absence from his post, would of themselves suffice to warrant the recall of a British Consul. I consider, however, that his presence tends to unsettle the public mind at Damascus, and to keep alive a sentiment of insecurity, which may at any time become a source of danger, and that it would be very desirable that he should be removed whenever an opportunity for it might offer.

* Nos. 17 and 19.

As your Lordship has already decided to reduce the scale of the Consulate at Damascus, it might for the present be sufficient, in reply to the representation of the Porte, to inform them that a change will shortly be made.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 24.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 52. Commercial.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 25, 1871.*

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 41 of the 22nd ultimo, I have to acquaint your Excellency that I will endeavour to make an arrangement for transferring Captain Burton from his present post at Damascus to some other Consulate, and your Excellency is at liberty to inform the Porte of my intention in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 25.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 52. Commercial.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 22, 1871.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the copy of a Report from Mr. Pisani, communicating to me, by Aali Pasha's desire, a telegram from the Governor-General of Syria, informing him of an affray which had taken place at Nazareth on St. George's Day, between some Greeks and the servants of Captain Burton, who are represented to have fired upon the people.

I have telegraphed to Mr. Consul Moore for any particulars he may be able to procure of the occurrence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 25.

Mr. Pisani to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Pera, May 20, 1871.*

AALI PASHA desired me to transmit, for your Excellency's information and consideration, the inclosed copy of a telegram he had just received from the Governor-General of Syria, giving a summary account of an occurrence which took place at Nazareth.

Mr. Burton, says Rashid Pasha, according to his wandering habits, went to Nazareth and encamped near the Greek Church. On St. George's Day, the Greek boys having assembled in the front of the church, an affray ensued between them and some of Mr. Burton's servants, in which that gentleman took an active part, and began to fire at them. On hearing the report of fire-arms, the crowd which was at church came out, and the scuffle took rather serious proportions.

Some of the Consul's people have been slightly wounded, and Mr. Burton was struck in the arm by a stone. It is very lucky, observes the Pasha, that the Greeks abstained from using any arms, otherwise the matter would have been aggravated. Mr. Burton has caused some of the Greeks mixed up in the quarrel to be apprehended and tied up, for the purpose of sending them to Damascus.

The occurrence, states the telegram, is mainly to be ascribed to the Consul, whose imprudence in firing on the people gave the disturbance a serious character. The Pasha concludes his telegram by saying that he had instituted an inquiry, and that he would not fail to acquaint the Porte with the result of the investigation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. PISANI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 25.

Rashid Pasha to Aali Pasha.

(Translation.)
(Telegraphic.)

May 4, 1871 (o.s. 1287).

MR. BURTON, the British Consul at Damascus, who is generally in the habit of wandering about the country, was lately at Nazareth living in his tent, which was pitched near the Greek Church. On St. George's Day a quarrel arose between his servants and a number of Greek lads who were standing near the church. Mr. Burton took an active part in the quarrel by firing on the Greeks, who had now come out of church, which made matters worse. Although several of the Consul's people received slight wounds he himself was merely struck by a stone in the arm.

The Greeks did not retaliate by using arms of any kind, and consequently the occurrence did not assume a more serious turn.

The Consul demands that a great number of the Greeks, whom he has taken up and bound with cords, should be sent up to Damascus. These people, on the other hand, declare that they are not to blame, and that it was in consequence of the Consul's having fired upon them that the quarrel became serious.

The matter is now being inquired into. I am not able to say more on the subject for the present, but shall not fail to communicate to your Highness later the final result of the investigation.

No. 26.

Aali Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, June 8.)

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Constantinople, le 24 *Mai*, 1871.

PAR sa dépêche responsive en date du 15 Mars, votre Excellence m'a informé que Lord Granville s'est montré disposé à se rendre au désir du Gouvernement Impérial, en relevant M. Burton de ses fonctions Consulaires à Damas.

Nous remercions sa Seigneurie de ses dispositions bienveillantes; mais il nous tarde de voir le résultat définitif de nos démarches. En effet, la conduite de M. Burton devient de plus en plus intolérable. Un télégramme du Gouverneur-Général du vilayet de Syrie nous signale un nouvel incident provoqué par cet Agent, et qui a pris des proportions très graves.

Je m'empresse de vous transmettre, ci-joint, une copie de ce télégramme et vous prie d'en entretenir Lord Granville et de lui démontrer l'impossibilité de maintenir M. Burton plus longtemps à Damas.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signed) AALI.

Inclosure in No. 26.

Rashid Pasha to Aali Pasha.

(Traduction du Turc.)
(Télégraphique.)

Le $\frac{1}{13}$ *Mai*, 1871.

LE Consul Britannique à Damas, M. Burton, qui aime à se livrer à de continuelles pérégrinations, s'était rendu, il y a quelques jours, à Nassara et s'était installé sous une tente dans le voisinage d'une église Grecque. C'était le jour de la fête de St. Georges, et un rassemblement d'enfants encombrait les abords de l'église. Une querelle s'éleva entre ces enfants et les domestiques du Consul. Ce dernier s'étant armé pour prendre part à la querelle, et s'étant servi de ses armes contre les Grecs, ceux qui se trouvaient dans l'intérieur de l'église en sortirent et se mêlerent à la rixe, qui acquit des proportions considérables, et dans laquelle quelques uns des domestiques furent légèrement blessés. Le Consul lui-même fut atteint au bras par une pierre; mais personne ne l'avait attaqué avec des armes, ce qui atténue de beaucoup le caractère de l'attaque dirigée contre sa personne.

Néanmoins, le Consul exigea qu'on fît conduire à Damas plusieurs personnes, les mains liées; mais les Chrétiens protestaient de leur innocence, en soutenant que le Consul les avait provoqués, dans un jour de fête, en tirant à balles sur eux.

J'ai commencé l'instruction de cette affaire, et je ferai parvenir à votre Altesse le résultat détaillé de mes informations dès que je l'aurai obtenu.

No. 26 A.

Earl Granville to Musurus Pasha.

My dear Ambassador,

16, *Bruton Street, June* 9, 1871.

I FIND that an account has been received of the affray at Nazareth.

I can take no step till I have received Captain Burton's Report of what has passed.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 26 B.

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(Received June 10.)

(No. 2.)
My Lord,

Damascus, May 20, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to report that, under short private leave granted by your Lordship, I left my post on March 27, 1871, and returned to it on April 28, 1871.

By the desire of Mr. Consul-General Eldridge, I passed through the towns of Tiberias and Safet, where the large community of Jews under British protection received me with much cordiality. They are about to address a Petition to your Lordship, praying that they may be transferred from under the Consulate-General of Beyrout to the Consulate of Damascus; and I promised them that I would report to your Lordship how much this change, enabling them to apply directly to the head-quarters of the Governor-General of Syria, would benefit their material interests.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

No. 27.

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(Received June 10.)

(No. 3.)
My Lord,

Damascus, May 20, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

Inclosure in No. 27.

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 5.)
Sir,

Damascus, May 20, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Excellency the following circumstances:—

On Thursday, the 6th of April, 1871, the Protestant Cemetery at Damascus was once more broken into and violated. Scarcely a year has passed without this outrage being renewed; and on the present occasion justice is completely withheld. The tomb of the Countess Harley Teleki was destroyed, and a number of grave-stones removed from the place. After some investigations on the part of this Consulate, thirteen of the stones were recovered. Three of them were deposited in a mosque by Talib-el-Kayyal, a Moslem ruffian of the Shaghur. He was absolved by the Majlis Tamiyis el Suda, upon the plea that he found the stones being carried about by children. The latter denied the whole of the story. The other ten stones were found in the possession of Jirges Hajjar, a Greek Catholic. He asserted that he had bought them at under price from a Moslem, Abd-el-Razzak el Musriyyeh. The latter was arrested, and he accused Mustafa Lahham, who succeeded in evading justice.

Abd-el-Razzak was tried in the presence of a Consular Dragoman, and was condemned to thirty days' imprisonment, in the absence of the Dragoman, but was presently released. In fact, it is hopeless to expect justice from a Tribunal constituted as it is at present, when a few Napoleons to the President, and to the Head Clerk, can procure any verdict desired.

The state of the Police Force at Damascus is causing considerable alarm. The active and energetic officer, Ismail Agha, died about the end of March. His subaltern, Serur Agha, has been virtually banished to the Hauran. The commanding officer, Moer Alai Mustafa Beg, whose bigotry and hatred of Christians make him the terror of all criminals, save Moslems, is supported by Abdullah Agha, a negro, who takes an active part in procuring the conversion of even women and children.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

No. 28.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received June 13.)

No. 65. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June 5, 1871.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a despatch from Mr. Noel Moore, Her Majesty's Consul at Jerusalem, in answer to a telegram by which I had directed him to give me any particulars in his power respecting the late affray at Nazareth between Captain Burton's people and the Greeks.

Although I have despatches and letters from Captain Burton himself up to the 20th ultimo, they do not contain even an allusion to the occurrence in question, and I have, consequently, telegraphed to him to report upon it immediately by telegraph and by post.

In the meantime, the Porte has received from the Governor-General of Syria the telegram, of which a translation is transmitted herewith, stating that the Greeks contend that the affray was entirely provoked by Captain Burton, against whom the Bishop of Nazareth was preferring a formal complaint, but who is, on the other hand, insisting on the punishment of the Greeks.

Under these circumstances the Governor-General suggests that either Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout, or a member of Her Majesty's Embassy here, should be instructed to proceed to Damascus forthwith to institute an inquiry into the occurrences in concert with him.

I told Aali Pasha this morning that I could not advise Her Majesty's Government to consent to the course proposed by Rashid Pasha, which would almost amount to [illegible] Her Majesty's Consular [illegible] the Governor of his district was a member.

The difficulty of the case lay in the fact of the Consul having made a complaint against a number of Greeks for a proceeding, which he was formally accused by the Greek Bishop of having himself brought about; but it appeared to me that the most advisable mode of proceeding would be for the authorities of Damascus to go regularly into Captain Burton's accusations against his assailants, who would have the [illegible] and if [illegible] of a nature to exculpate Captain Burton, the Porte could then make a representation on the subject to Her Majesty's Government, who would certainly not refuse to take such steps in reference to it as the case might seem to call for.

Aali Pasha concurred in this view of the case; and the course I suggested will, I believe, be followed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 28.

Consul Moore to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Jerusalem, May 25, 1871.*

IN reply to your Excellency's telegram, I have the honour to report the following particulars of the [illegible] Nazareth between the Greeks [illegible] and Captain Burton's attendants, and which are derived from the Greek Bishop of Tabor, [illegible] Nazareth [illegible] and from two English travellers, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Gill, who were there at the time.

According to the Bishop's account, the conflict began by one of the servants driving away an Abyssinian mendicant from Captain Burton's encampment early in the

morning of St. George's Day. The beggar persisting in remaining force was used. Just then the Greeks issued from their church [illegible] the camp and beat [illegible]. It was in the act of [illegible] the Abyssinian, saying, "You [illegible] with two guns, the other servants and more Greeks coming up. Stones appear to [illegible] Mr. [illegible] Mrs. Burton, [illegible] Mrs. Burton [illegible] Captain Burton was [illegible] by two stones which hit him on the arm and lower part of the leg.

Hearing of the affray, the above-mentioned [illegible] who were [illegible] when the contest had nearly subsided. Two or three shots had been fired, [illegible] without hitting any one, but by whom [illegible] did not say. [illegible] Messrs. Johnson and Gill did not know the particulars of the origin of the affray, nor what part the Governor of Nazareth took in the matter.

I have since heard that Captain Burton left Nazareth, taking with him twelve of the assailants in irons for trial at Damascus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. T. MOORE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 28.

Rashd Pasha to Aali Pasha.

[illegible]
[illegible] *May 16 (28), 1287.*

[illegible] Greeks maintain that [illegible] the British [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] by telegraphic [illegible], therefore, now claim redress for his having fired upon the congregation, which had come out of the church at Nazareth as well as for his having [illegible] the church on horseback during prayers, when he took to smashing the lamps (with his riding-whip), and attempting to break open one of the inner doors.

The Greek Bishop of Nazareth is to come [illegible] in order to urge the trial of the case; and whilst matters stand thus, [illegible] propose to demand that a large number of Greeks (who are some of the [illegible] plaintiffs in this affair) should be made to undergo both correctional and pecuniary punishment—a demand, however, which will have to be rejected before the case is tried, and the two parties concerned duly confronted.

Under these circumstances, [illegible] importance of the affair, [illegible] Medjliss, I beg to submit to your [illegible] British Embassy should send immediately [illegible] British Consul-General of Beyrout also [illegible] with me in bring[illegible]

No. 29.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received June 27.)

No. 7 Commercial.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June 14, 1871.*

I HAVE BROUGHT to the knowledge of the Porte the violation of the Protestant cemetery at Damascus, reported in Mr. Consul Burton's despatch No. 5 of the 20th ultimo, and requested that efficient measures might be taken for its future protection.

Instructions have been consequently sent to Rashid Pasha [illegible] possible to remove what had been destroyed, and to take proper steps for preventing the recurrence of similar acts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 30.

Mr. Odo Russell to Consul Burton.

(No. 1.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, June 14, 1871*

I AM directed by Earl Granville to call upon you to furnish, by the earliest opportunity, a full explanation of the circumstances adverted to in the telegram from the Governor-General of Syria to Aali Pasha, of which a copy is herewith inclosed,* communicated to his Lordship by the Ottoman Ambassador at this Court.

I am at the same time to acquaint you that serious complaints in regard to your general proceedings have been made by the Porte to Her Majesty's Government; and I am to add that his Lordship wishes that, from the time of receipt of this despatch until further instructions reach you, you should not quit the seat of your Consulate the City of Damascus.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 31.

Aali Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, June 20.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 20 Juin, 1871.*

LECU rapports Nos. 87 et 91.

Nous remercions Lord Granville de sa décision de relever définitivement M. Burton de ses fonctions Consulaires à Damas.

D'après nos dernières nouvelles de Syrie cet Agent a adressé tout récemment une circulaire aux Cheikhs Druses de Khoran pour les annoncer son voyage dans quelques localités de Syrie, et les inviter à une entrevue.

Cette attitude de M. Burton ne peut être toléré plus longtemps. Veuillez faire un nouvel appel aux sentiments d'équité de Lord Granville pour obtenir le rappel immédiat de cet Agent.

No. 32.

Mr. Odo Russell to Consul Burton.

(No. 2.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, June 23, 1871.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1 of the 14th instant, I am directed by Earl Granville to observe to you that although despatches have been received from you dated since your return to Damascus, no [illegible] to the transactions at Nazareth; and I am further to call upon you for an immediate explanation why you have not reported this matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 33.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received June 27.)

(No. 73. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June 16, 1871*

HAVING received despatches from Captain Burton up to the 20th ultimo without any mention of the affray at Nazareth, I addressed him the despatch of which a copy is herewith inclosed, [illegible] such a circumstance as a disturbance, in which one of Her Majesty's Consuls had been personally engaged, had not at once been reported to me. And I likewise asked for explanations with respect to another incident which will not improbably be brought forward.

* No. 28

I have since received from Captain Burton the inclosed telegram, which does not give many details, but states that the authorities of Damascus are now disposed to settle the affair amicably.

I communicated this telegram to Aali Pasha at the same time as your Lordship's despatch, Commercial No. 52, saying that you would endeavour to remove Captain Burton to another post, and I suggested that, under those circumstances, an amicable settlement was what is most desirable.

Aali Pasha showed himself disposed to prescribe this course on the authorities, although he said that they had by no means intimated to him a desire to withdraw their complaints against the Consul.

His Highness expressed his acknowledgments to your Lordship for the despatch which I had communicated to him, accompanied by the hope that Captain Burton's transfer may be effected at an early date, for the despatches received that day from represent his proceedings as compromising the tranquillity of the province.

Translations of these despatches, and of the letter of the Bishop of Nazareth, will be [illegible] to Her Majesty's Embassy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 33.

Sir H. Elliot to Consul Burton.

Sir, *Constantinople, June 6, 1871.*

I YESTERDAY received your despatches of the 20th ultimo, and your private letter of the same date.

I had been expecting from you an account of the affray which had been reported to me as having taken place at Nazareth on St. George's Day, in which some of your party were said to have used their fire-arms, and yourself to have been injured by stones.

As the accounts received by the Porte represent the occurrence as having been provoked by your party, the Bishop of Nazareth having made a formal complaint of your own proceedings, it was very desirable that I should be in possession of your version of it, and I must request you to explain, without further delay, how it was that such a circumstance as an affray in which one of Her Majesty's Consuls was personally engaged, should not have been at once reported to me.

You will inform me whether there is any ground for the assertion of your followers having used their fire-arms; and likewise in what manner and by whom the persons guilty of the assault were brought to Damascus.

It is asserted that on a previous occasion, in the month of October or November last, a person in your employment made use of his gun or pistol without justifiable cause; and as this may probably be appealed to as an evidence of the conduct and bearing of your people, you will report to me upon that circumstance likewise.

I am, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 33.

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Beyrout, June 8, 1871.*

YOUR telegram of 5th June received only 7th June. My servants unprovokedly attacked by Greek orthodox at Nazareth on account of a slight quarrel with an insolent negro. Three of mine severely hurt. Have applied to local authorities for redress. Great opposition, at first, from Greek clergy, who now own themselves mistaken, and wish for an amicable settlement. Details by post.

No. 34.

Consul-General Eldridge to Earl Granville.—(Received June 28.)

(No. 9. Political.)

My Lord, *Beyrout, June 16, 1871.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the copy of a despatch, with its inclosure which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Minister at the Sublime Porte on the subject of a complaint brought against Captain Burton by Rashid Pasha, Governor-General of Syria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. JACKSON ELDRIDGE

Inclosure 1 in No. 34.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Beyrout, June 16, 1871.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch, and its inclosures, which I have received from His Excellency the Wali of Syria, complaining of the proceedings of Captain Burton in his recent visit to the Hauran and Jebel Druse.

As Rashid Pasha expresses a hope that, like himself, I shall disapprove of this journey, I can only refer the matter to your Excellency, as, beyond a private letter, dated the 23rd ultimo (received by me on the 25th), in which Captain Burton announces his intention of visiting the Hauran, I have had no knowledge of his intentions or the objects of the journey, which may, perhaps, have been misrepresented to the Governor-General.

Without entering into the arguments of Rashid Pasha, I cannot refrain from expressing my opinion that it was ill-judged on the part of Captain Burton to have gone to the Jebel Druse without having at least informed the local authorities of his intention; as a similar journey, undertaken, as it were, secretly, would bear the interpretation in the eyes of the people that Her Majesty's Government has some line of policy in view that differed from that of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 34.

Rashid Pasha to Consul-General Eldridge.

M. le Consul-Général, *Damas, le 14 Juin, 1871.*

J'AI l'honneur de vous faire parvenir ci-inclusa copie de la lettre que j'ai cru devoir adresser à M. Burton [illegible]

J'aime à penser que vous n'approuverez pas comme moi un voyage entrepris et exécuté dans de pareilles circonstances.

Je profite, &c.
(Signé) RACHID

Inclosure 3 in No. 34.

Rashid Pasha to Consul Burton.

M. le Consul, *Damas, le 7 Juin, 1871.*

LORS de mon arrivée en Syrie la tranquillité était loin de régner comme aujourd'hui dans le Hauran. Le pillage, l'[illegible] étaient [illegible] Druses d'avec [illegible] Arabes [illegible] Les [illegible] Druses [illegible] Arabes [illegible] Damas [illegible] Arabes [illegible] Druses [illegible] Arabes [illegible] Druses [illegible] Arabes [illegible] Druses

I likewise inclose the copy of a letter from Mr. Tyrwhitt Drake, who was travelling with him at the time.

These reports put, as was to be expected, a very different colour upon the occurrence from that which had first been given to it on the part of the Greeks

I have communicated Mr. Drake's letter to the Porte, which is not yet in possession of the reports of the Governor of the result of his investigations into the matter

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

P S., *June* 29 —The Bishop's letter having reached me since writing the above, is herewith transmitted in translation

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Inclosure 1 in No. 35

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot

(No. 7.)

Sir, *Damascus, June 7*, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your Excellency's telegram of June 6th, which arrived only to-day (June 7). I had heard privately of it from one of the officials of the Serai some hours before it reached me.

As regards the affair at Nazareth, the best explanation which I can send is contained in the Inclosures Nos. 2, 3, and 4. The first is the despatch addressed by me to his Excellency the Governor-General of Syria. The second is the account of the assault forwarded to me by my fellow-traveller, Mr. C. F. Drake, who here represents the Palestine Exploration Fund. The third is the evidence given before the Medjlis by an English clergyman (Rev. Mr. Taylor), and by three other gentlemen who were in Nazareth at the time.

I may also report that the Greek Bishop of Nazareth has confessed that he was compelled by his co-religionists to act as he did; that he was ordered not to return to Nazareth without settling the affair in their favour, and that he is ready to declare that those who committed the outrage were guilty, and want the affair to be settled amicably. I have the honour to translate the telegram sent by the Rev. Serafin, Bishop (Greek Orthodox) of Damascus to Monsignor Xarothaus, Patriarch of Antioch, now at Tripoli.

"We have received from Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Damascus all details concerning the Nazareth affair; we are satisfied with his account, and we will send details by post."

Finally, as regards the claim of 300 napoleons to be distributed amongst my wounded servants and muleteers, I have, at the instance of the Reverend the Greek Bishop of Damascus, reduced it to 50 napoleons, which will be claimed after three months, and only in case of bad conduct being reported.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 35.

Consul Burton to Rushid Pasha.

Excellence, *Damas, le 20 Mai*, 1871.

J'AI l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance les faits suivants:—

Le Vendredi, 5 Mai, 1871 (Fête de Saint-Georges), j'étais en passant à Nazareth endroit célèbre depuis bien des années par l'inhospitalité et le mauvais traitement des [illegible] que j'empêchai l'Evêque Grec, Monseigneur Hippon, de saisir un terrain à Tiberias contenant une synagogue Juive. Un Copte attaché au couvent Grec de l'Annonciation se planta devant nos tentes et se moqua de nos gens. On commença à l'éloigner, et il se vengea en nous menaçant avec une pierre, et en se servant du langage qui paraît propre à Nazareth. Peu-à-peu une rixe s'engagea. Enfin, entendant des cris derrière le mur du couvent, M. T. Drake, mon compagnon de voyage, et moi, nous courumes pour calmer l'affaire. Nous y fumes sans armes, et nous trouvames une foule de Grecs. Enfin [illegible] comme la pluie. Le nommé Samáun el Asfar attaqua à l'instant M. Drake, et sans un

coup de pistolet [illegible] l'air par un de nos domestiques une fatalité aurait pu [illegible] Le nommé Yusuf Moonair se rua sur moi. Je pris le revolver, et tirant un coup dans l'air je le fis retirer avec ses acolytes, mais pas avant d'avoir reçu trois coups de pierre. Le total de nos blessés se porte à sept personnes, dont deux étaient très-gravement atteints. Un de nos domestiques eût une hemorragie intérieure qui mit sa vie en danger

Après les susnommés, les criminels les plus coupables sont les suivants:—

1. [illegible] Soleyman, qui encourages les assaillants, en disant: "Izbahn hum sna hati diyat hum" ("Tuez-les, je paierai le prix de leur sang").

2. Yusuf el Mugehir, barbe blanche, qui cria—quand on lui dit C'est le Consul Anglais de Damas que vous assommez—"Wa m kan" ("Assommez-le quand même"). A ces [illegible] j'ajouterai les neuf suivants

3. [illegible] rge Dde.
4. Elias Varvar et son père.
5. George Varvar
6. Phat Saeran
7. Halil Zerana
8. George Azzam.
9. Hanl Shemmet
10. George Soleyman, et
11. Yusuf ibn Scalefet, qui parvient à s'évader.

Voir [illegible] lu le procès-verbal qui se fit à Nazareth. Je la prie de [illegible] personnes dont les noms ont été cités, et de les emporter [illegible]

[illegible] représenter les bons offices que j'ai reçus de la part de Khurshid Effendi, Caimacam de Nazareth, du Binbashi de la police, Kuwat Aga, et du [illegible] M. Louis Dabbane.

[illegible] saurai terminer mon rapport sans demontrer à votre Excellence l'état actuel [illegible] Nazareth et de son voisinage. La police est si faible que les coupables ne peuvent [illegible] Un Juif ne saurait traverser le bazar sans être outragé et les sujets du Sultan [illegible] Nazareth. Il y a un an on assomma le maître d'école Protestant de Jafa, et le missionnaire Protestant, M. Zeller, a subi des injures sans nombre. On vola pendant l'année dernière un voyageur Anglais, le Rév. S. Douglas. Deux personnes nous ont cherché querelle à Ayn Don. A Tabun Tabighel on me menaça [illegible] ("kavas kun") parceque je traversai le coin d'un champ qui n'avait [illegible] A Tiberias on a frappé Madame Zelmma Fuchs, et le protégé Anglais [illegible] Sampton. Peut-être votre Excellence jugera bien de faire venir à Damas les procès-verbaux de Tiberias et de Safet

La raison de ces outrages est simplement la faiblesse de la police. Avec une addition de 150 hommes distribues entre Nazareth, Saffarah Ayn Don Zerin et Hayn, les Caimacams seraient plus respectés et on n'assommera plus les voyageurs. Sans ce moyen les circonstances les plus regrettables peuvent arriver à chaque instant, surtout dans l'état d'excitation abnormal actuellement existante partout en Syrie parmi les nations Latines et Grecques.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) RICHARD F. BURTON

P S.—J'ai l'honneur, Excellence, de vous soumettre ma demande d'une amende pour les blessés, que je fixerai à 300 napoleons et qui sera payée par la congrégation Grecque de Nazareth. Un des notables de l'endroit m'a envoyé l'offre d'une somme plus considerable pour abandon de justice et pour la gratification de mes gens. J'ai jugé convenable de laisser l'affaire dans les mains de votre Excellence.

R. F. B.

Inclosure 3 in No. 35.

Declaration of Mr. Drake.

ON May 5, 1871, Captain Burton and I were encamped at Nazareth (which is within his jurisdiction), near the Greek Church of the Annunciation.

Early in the morning I happened to be at a short distance from the tents, and hearing an angry voice, I went to see whose it was. I found an Abyssinian boy using violent language to Habib, who was telling him to leave the neighbourhood of the tents.

The Abyssinian continuing his abusive language, and picking up a stone to throw at Habib Mohammed, the cavass went down and began to beat him.

[redacted] with only riding-whips in our hands, but, on sharply turning [redacted] face to face with some 70 to 100 Greek Christians, who [redacted] their force at Consul's servants, and immediately that Captain Burton and I appeared at us.

The first stone thrown at me was a very large one, from the hands of Sumaan el Asfar, at a distance of only four or five metres, which narrowly missed my head. At this moment Habile fired a shot from a revolver into the air. This checked the ruffians for an instant, and we were able to retreat to the south-east corner of the church. Here Captain Burton took the revolver, and fired a shot, as before, into the air. This daunted the mob, and we were able to retire slowly to the tents, though followed by showers of stones. Then, as the mob seemed menacing, we prepared our arms, and requested some English and American travellers, who were encamped close by, to do the same. Seeing these preparations the mob melted away, many returning to the church, where there had been a service (it being the Feast of St. George). At the commencement of the disturbance two of the servants, namely, Habib and Saba, were so much injured that they were unable to move for several days, and the former has continued to spit blood

Mohamed, the cavass, was severely injured in the ribs, head, and Gium Autun, the Seis, and two of the Mukaris, were also injured.

When Sumaan el Asfar had the impertinence to accompany a deputation of Greek Christians to the tents for the purpose of begging Captain Burton to put justice aside, and forego punishing the culprits, I immediately recognized him as the man who had thrown the stone at me, and who was always in the front of the mob, and busiest in throwing stones.

When Yusuf Mommur was brought to the tents I distinctly recognized him as one foremost and busiest of the mob.

This mob was by no means made up of only lads and young men, as some of the Greeks wished to make out, but many old men were there, and those the richest and most influential members of the Greek community; men whose duty should have been to restrain their juniors, and not, as they did, to excite them to acts of extreme violence.

Damascus, May 22, 1871.

(Signed) CHAS. F TYRWHITT DRAKE,
Representative of the Palestine Exploration Fund in Syria

Inclosure 4 in No. 35.

Declaration by Mr. Taylor and others respecting Affairs at Nazareth.

LES messieurs soussignés étaient dans la tente à Nazareth le matin le 5 Mai, 1871. Madame Burton les a prié de prendre leurs armes et de venir, parce que le Capitaine Burton et M. Drake et les domestiques étaient attaqués par les Grecs Orthodoxes. Quand les messieurs sortaient de leur tente ils rencontrèrent le Capitaine Burton et M. Drake, allant chercher un domestique qui était encore entre les mains des Grecs. Le rapport que le Capitaine Burton et M. Drake sont entré à l'église avec des armes pour la profaner est un mensonge. Ils sont seulement entrés dans la cour pour chercher le domestique cité. Ces messieurs ont aussi vu les domestiques très sericusement blessés, et le nommé Saba était évanoui. Ils temoignent que le Capitaine Burton et M. Drake et les domestiques ont agi avec très grande modération, considerant qu'ils étaient blessés et que la foule des Grecs était très menaçante et vingt fois plus nombreuse qu'eux. Ces messieurs croient que les douze zaptiés qui sont sous le Commeam de 7,000 personnes [sic], et que c'est une obligation pour le Gouvernement Turc de rendre cet endroit sûr pour les voyageurs, parce que ce n'est pas la premiere fois

que les voyageurs Européens ont été insultés à Nazareth. Ils croient aussi que si les criminels ne seront pas sevérement punis, les conséquences seront graves non seulement pour les voyageurs, mais encore pour la sûreté de la paix de la Syrie.

(Signé) D. W. W. TAYLOR, *Clergyman.*
F. W. PARSONS, *Huddersfield*
[redacted]

Inclosure 5 in No. 35

Mr. Drake to Sir H. Elliot.

Your Excellency, *Damascus, June 8, 1871.*

ON my return yesterday from the Eastern Desert I found that most gross and exaggerated misrepresentations had been made to Constantinople with reference to the disturbance at Nazareth, in which Captain Burton's servants were so maltreated. As I was present—travelling with Captain Burton—and saw as much of this riot as any one, I consider it my duty to lay before you a correct statement of the whole affair. You are quite at liberty to make any use of this letter that you please.

I shall first observe that the notice generally in the "Hadikat-el-Akbar," of [redacted] 1871, is likely to convey a false impression, and especially the statement that [redacted] si considérable qu'il fut impossible de reconnaître les auteurs de la rixe, [redacted] qui avait lancé la pierre au Consul," is a deliberate and intentional lie, as will be seen below. The injuries to the servants were by no means slight: two of them were unable to move for three days, and one continued to spit blood for [redacted]

[redacted] affair commenced early in the morning of May 5, by a Copt [redacted] attempting [redacted] He then proceeded to use most abusive language, and picked up a stone to throw at one of Captain Burton's men, who then, naturally enough, beat him. During this little fracas, which would of itself have finished here, the Greek Christians (Orthodox) were in the Church of the Annunciation, which was close to the tents; but three or [redacted] rose to take the part of the Copt, and attack the Consul's servants (four in number). Two of the Mukaris then joined in, the alarm was given, and the Greeks rushed out of church, and managed to get the servants to the east side of the church inclosure, where they were not in view of the tents. Captain Burton and I, hearing a considerable noise, ran down half-dressed, and on turning the corner of the wall found ourselves suddenly in a perfect storm of stones. One man (Sumaan-el-Asfar) threw a large stone at me from a distance of only three or four yards, which narrowly missed my head. Of course I took especial care to remark his face, and when he had the extreme impudence to accompany a deputation of Greeks, who came to [redacted] tion to request him not to punish the offenders, I recognized him at a [redacted] distance of fifty or sixty yards, as he was approaching the tents. Captain Burton also immediately recognized him, as we both did Yusuf Mommur. These two were [redacted] riot. All of these were identified by the servants; but a few, whose identification was rather doubtful, were of course immediately set free.

Luckily during the riot one of the servants had a revolver in his belt, and fired a shot in the air, which checked the mob for a moment. C[redacted] pistol and fired again in the air, and we w[redacted] by showers of stones. Had it not been [redacted] probabl[redacted] gave the alarm to some [redacted]

by his flock with orders to do his utmost, but I hear from the priest Kyriacos (Deacon to the Patriarch here) that he deeply regrets the part he has already taken.

The policy of the Governor-General of Syria, his Excellency Rash[illegible] always been to oppose European influence as much as poss[illegible] a common saying in Damascus, "The Consuls used to unmake Wali; Wali unmakes the Consuls," and consequently he sides with the Greeks. [illegible] independent man, with a thorough knowledge of the country and ways of deal[illegible] Captain Burton, is of course peculiarly obnoxious to him, and I have no doubt he would be very well pleased to see him removed, in hopes [illegible] to use as a tool. This policy of antago[illegible]

[illegible]

Care of S. Von Haes, Esq., Imperial Ottoman Bank, Beyrout

Inclosure 6 in No. 35.

The Mutran of Nazareth to the Kaimakam of the Hauran

(Traduction.) *Le 10 Mai*, 1871.

COMME il est déjà connu de votre Excellence le Consul Anglais à Damas a amené, puisqu'il lui a plu, en cette ville ensemble avec lui, deux des individus qui par suite de l'action intentée dernièrement durant son séjour à Nazareth, c'est-à-dire, sous prétexte que ces hommes auraient subi des mauvais traitements de la part de votre tribu, il avait fait venir à Okia, toujours lié, et cela sans en donner avis ni à moi ni aux Moukhtars et sans recueillir sur les lieux des preuves et renseignements à l'appui de sa réclamation.

Persuadé que le Gouvernement Impérial tient à cœur de sauvegarder et maintenir toujours intacts l'honneur et les droits de votre tribu, de nationalité Ottomane, je me contenterai de soumettre seulement à votre Excellence la conduite inqualifiable qu'on a tenu à votre égard; mais il est de mon devoir de vous exposer les actes injustes commis durant la célébration de la messe, et je prends la liberté de solliciter humblement de votre Excellence de vouloir bien protéger contre toute atteinte et de vous conserver les bienfaits du repos et de la tranquillité dont nous jouissons, grâces à Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan.

Le 23 Avril dernier, fête de St. George, vers le matin, après la célébration de la messe, des détonations de coups de fusil se sont faites entendre du dehors, et une des [illegible] Consul prétend avoir été commises étaient l'effet de certains gens inconnus venus d'une autre localité, c'est-à-dire, que ces individus armés de bâtons et d'armes criblaient de coups un nègre (Habeshi) qui logeait en hâte dans l'église, couru lui porter secours, et cet événement produisit une pénible impression sur ceux qui se trouvaient tant à l'intérieur qu'au dehors de l'église. En outre, à la sortie de la messe, comme le prêtre baptisait selon le rite Chrétien un enfant, le dit Consul, en présence d'un grand nombre de femmes parentes de cet enfant, fit irruption dans l'église accompagné d'autres individus, cassa avec sa canne une lampe, frappa du pied sur un armoire et donna libre cours à des insultes et blasphèmes qu'il est répugne de répéter, et aussi à des propos menaçants tels que, "de même que les Habeshis vous autres aussi vous serez punis par mon Gouvernement." Non content de cela, le dit Consul, sans prétexte que quelques individus avaient pris part à ces désordres, vint pour la seconde fois, et malgré les récherches qu'il fit tant dans la cour que dans les autres parties de l'église, n'ayant découvert personne, afin d'assouvir sa rage, fit arrêter un domestique de l'église et l'envoya en prison.

En apprenant que le dit Consul s'était pour la seconde fois rendu à l'église, je me

suis presenté chez le Caimacam pour relever combien cette conduite du Consul était injuste et arbitraire, et que de pareilles démarches étaient du ressort de l'autorité locale, et nullement de la compétence du Consul, le priant en même temps de se rendre en [illegible] au Naib pour prendre des renseignements précis sur [illegible] cette demande quatre membres du Conseil furent [illegible], mais les recherches qu'ils firent ensemble avec le dit Consul, qui se trouvait aussi là, sont restes infructueuses. Pour complément à cette conduite aussi injuste [illegible] du Consul pendant que l'affaire avait été soumise au Caimacam, mon fils Houri Salih a été mandé et sous prétexte d'avoir reçu d'Okia une lettre l'invitant à [illegible] prêts les témoins, il en a été rendu responsable.

Tandis que non seulement il n'est pas vrai qu'une pareille lettre soit arrivée, mais en admettant même qu'elle le fût, on ne saurait d'aucune manière en faire un crime. Et la teneur de cette lettre est en contradiction avec la loi et l'usage, pourquoi mon [illegible] Et de plus de quel droit le Consul ouvre et prend connaissance [illegible] lettre à l'adresse d[illegible]tre, et surtout d'un membre du clergé [illegible]

C'est seulement dans la crainte de retarder l'enquête en train d'être faite sur cette [illegible] ents que j'ai malgré moi gardé le silence sur de pareils [illegible] le me rendre à Okia pour y attendre l'arrivée de votre Excellence et l'issu de cette affaire

A en juger par les apparences le but du dit Consul n'est autre que d'insulter la religion orthodoxe, ma personne, nos temples, et toute notre communauté religieuse, puisqu'en cas de besoin le Gou[illegible]ement n'avait qu'à me demander celui des membres de notre communauté qu'il a désiré interroger, et je me serai empressé d'exécuter immédiatement cet ordre. Tandis que non seulement moi et toute notre communauté, mais aussi tout notre tribu, se trouvent aujourd'hui profondément blessés des procédés [illegible]es et sans précédents contre nos églises et notre communauté. Surtout lorsque d'après les lois et reglements en vigueur partout dans les vastes provinces de l'Empire, comme aussi dans tous les pays de l'Europe, de pareils actes ne sauraient être tolérés, que chacun jouit d'une pleine liberté et tranquilité dans l'accomplissement de ses devoirs religieux, et qu'en Angleterre même, d'où depend le dit Consul, le plus grand soin est apporté à ce sujet, pourquoi donc notre nation doit-elle, sous le règne glorieux de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, être en butte aux vexations et aux insultes de la part [illegible] selon le Consul, ses hommes auraient été l'objet eussent été commises par les dits [illegible] d'insulter de la sorte, et surtout d'assouvir sa vengeance lui-même? C'est avec le plus vif regret que je declare à votre Excellence que cet état de choses aussi pénible que contraire à la justice et à l'équité porte une grave atteinte à l'honneur de notre tribu, est de nature à faire perdre la confiance aux personnes qui venaient séjourner à Nasra, en pèlerinage, et que tout le monde craint le renouvellement de pareils procédés.

Je prie en conséquence votre Excellence de vouloir bien transmettre la présente [illegible] Gouvernement Impérial, à la haute bienveillance et à la puissante protection duquel nous avons recours, afin que, prenant en sérieuse considération les faits susmentionnés, [illegible] votre tranquillité perdue, et de nous préserver à l'avenir des semblables procédés.

No. 36.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received July 7.)

(No. 70.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June 26*, 1871.

IN connection with the complaints made by the Porte of the proceeding of Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus, irrespective of the affray at Nazareth, I have the honour to inclose the translation of a letter which he was represented to me as having written to the Arab Chiefs, inviting them to meet him at a village in the Hauran.

I telegraphed to Captain Burton to ascertain whether the letter was authentic, and I inclose herewith a copy of his telegraphic reply.

In the meantime I had received from him a despatch, of which a copy is also inclosed, in which Captain Burton, after alluding to the unsatisfactory state of northern Syria, mentions having invited the Chiefs to meet him, and reports the salutary effects of his interview with them.

Your Lordship will [illegible] of the [illegible] opportunity of transferring Captain Burton to another post, [illegible] sorry [illegible]

length the particulars of the complaints which have been made to me against him, but their general tenor was his determination to meddle with the internal administration of the district, the Governor of which wrote to the Porte, that if Her Majesty's Consul were to assume the virtual position of Governor, it would be impossible for himself to continue to direct the Government of the province. A letter,* of which I have forwarded a copy to your Lordship elsewhere, touching the affair at Nazareth, while eloquently advocating Captain Burton's proceedings, unconsciously but conclusively confirms the complaint of the Governor

After stating that the Vali hates the Consuls of the Great Powers, the letter goes on to say, that his Excellency "still more hates Captain Burton, for he is virtually Governor here, and there is not much use for a Governor; and he dare not do anything wrong for fear of him, for he can neither bully nor bribe him.

If, as I can hardly doubt, the above gives a correct description of the position assumed by Captain Burton, it certainly seems to show him to have misunderstood the duties and line of conduct to be followed by Her Majesty's Consular Agents, who, by co-operation or by friendly remonstrances with the provincial authorities, as the case may seem to require, may contribute powerfully to the well-doing of a district; but who, by raising themselves up as rival or antagonistic powers, cannot fail to produce a state of things which may lead to disastrous results.

That many abuses exist in the administration of the province may be fairly assumed; but Captain Burton, in his desire to remedy them, has not, as it appears to

are remarkable for its tranquillity

Looking back for the last four years I cannot but recollect that, previous to his assuming the direction of the Consulate of Damascus, neither the local authorities nor Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout had felt the slightest anxiety about the state of the district, but that there has been a gradually increasing uneasiness ever since.

The knowledge that the British Consul is in direct opposition with the local authorities is liable to be taken by the restless populations of those countries as an encouragement to resist them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT

P.S.—Since writing the above, the inclosed copy of a letter from the Governor-General to the Grand Vizier on the subject of Captain Burton's visit to the Hauran has been communicated to me. Neither it, nor his Excellency's letter to Captain Burton, sent to your Lordship by Mr. Eldridge, agrees with the intimation in Captain Burton's telegram, that the Vali made no objection to it.

H. E

Inclosure 1 in No. 36.

Consul Burton to the Sheikhs of the Hauran.

(Traduction.)

(Après les compliments d'usage.) *Le 22 Mars*, 1871

JE m'empresse de vous informer que, animé du désir de m'entretenir avec vous, je quitterai Damas Mercredi pour vous rejoindre, et que j'arriverai ce jour même à Heujan et le lendemain à Laburta et le troisième jour à Finvate. Je nourris l'espoir que vous ne manquerez pas tous de venir me rencontrer au dit village de Finvate afin de prendre part à cette entrevue

(Signé) RICHARD F. BURTON

Inclosure 2 in No. 36

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot

(Telegraphic.) *Damascus, June 22, 1871.*

TELEGRAM of June 19th received on June 21 Despatches, with full details, forwarded Friday 14th June. I cannot say if letter be authentic till I see it. The Vali and Mr. Eldridge made no objection to my going. The object of visit is explained in the despatches. The authorities show no signs of misunderstanding now.

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* This letter does not appear in the correspondence.

Inclosure 3 in No. 36.

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Damascus, June 9, 1871.*

I THINK it my duty to bring to your Excellency's notice the state of affairs actually existing in Northern Syria.

As I have already reported (in my despatch of the 20th ultimo) the administration of the police and the protection of the city and its environs are left wholly in the hands of the Mir Ali Mustafa Bey, a man of noted incapacity and unusual fanaticism. His second in command is one Abdullah Agha, a negro, who, under the direction of his chief, encourages the conversion of Christians to Mahomedanism, and the feelings of the former, Greeks as well as Latins, are very strong upon this point. At the same time Bedouin raids are becoming the order of the day, and one has just been announced to me as having penetrated to within a few miles of Damascus.

During the last few months various reports about complications between the Sublime Porte and Egypt, have caused the people of Syria to believe that the Khedive awaits only an opportunity to declare himself independent; and it is the general idea that Syria will take part with Egypt. The conduct of the Wali (Governor-General) of Syria, his Excellency Rashid Pasha, who belongs to the family of Mohamed Ali, has contributed not a little to increase popular excitement. He has now held office for six years (since 1865, during which time he has amassed an immense fortune, and has allowed his partizans to follow his example. He has systematically dismissed all those who will not be the mere instruments of his will, for instance, Abd-el-Hadi Pasha, late [illegible] of Hamah. He has filled up all the most important posts with his own [illegible] for instance, the Governor of Nazareth (Kusshur Agha) was his pipe-bearer. In order to make himself master of the situation he placed the Post Office in the hands of the Turkish authorities, and the privacy of letters has ever since been openly violated A copy of every telegram is provided at once to head-quarters. It is the prevalent idea [illegible] sent to Jerusalem in an independent position to counteract the dangerous influence of the Governor-General. But the latter contrives to make interests at Constantinople by means of many friends, notably of Said Effendi, whose son married his daughter, and the result is that he retains his appointment.

To Europeans and European subjects his Excellency Rashid Pasha has shown himself irreconcilably hostile. He declares openly that he has removed the Italian Consul, M. Pilastri; the Prussian Consul, M. Gomme; and the Spanish Vice-Consul, M. Rilodenegra; because they would not become his tools. He is now intriguing with all his strength against this Consulate, and he adopts the plan of affecting to believe all the false [illegible] which he himself has originated. The Druses of the Hauran having paid me many visits, and wishing to return them, I left Damascus on the 24th ultimo, after writing to the Sheykhs that I desired to meet them all. We met, and I found them in [illegible] them by assuring them, incidentally, that they had nothing to fear, and openly exhorted them to act like peaceful and loyal subjects of the Porte. His Excellency affects to believe that my visit had for object some political intrigue. It is reported that he is preparing to attack the Druses in their fastnesses, the Sejo, and in the Jebel el Druse Hauran, and he would willingly charge me with having rendered his expedition necessary

I may briefly show the animus of his Excellency Rashid Pasha against all European *protégés* by quoting an order lately issued in this vilayet:—"None but rayahs are henceforward allowed to buy the ushr or dime of the villages, and all villagers who enter into such transactions with foreigners are to be accountable for disobeying this order." A French *protégé* has thus been compelled to renounce his foreign nationality. I need not point out the retrograde and anti-progressive nature of such a step, especially in these days when Turkey affects to encourage immigration [illegible] cemetery has again been violated. The violators were detected, and have been allowed to escape unpunished. Two English subjects, the Affghans Mohammed and Ahmed, were condemned without the presence of a Consular dragoman, and though I have had a lengthy correspondence upon the subject, I cannot obtain a revision of the sentence thus pronounced contrary to the capitulations.

[illegible] take [illegible]

The Baghdad postman was robbed by the Renvallah Bedawins during the [illegible] winter, and Colonel Herbert, Her Majesty's Consul-General for Baghdad, [illegible] for the amount of the loss, to the extent of 60*l* shans. This sum I have [illegible] to pay for the property lost in it. An English caravan, led by Mr. [illegible] Khawajah Yakub Smonha, who demands 7,000 piastres, the value of his merchandise plundered about a year [illegible] Baghdad [illegible] Pasha [illegible] Pasha. I cannot even obtain a reply. A Maltese surgeon, Dr. Dupont [illegible] Mosul [illegible] Mosul [illegible] only Consulate [illegible] and I venture [illegible]

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON

Inclosure 4 in No. 36

Rashid Pasha to Aali Pasha.

(Confidentielle.)
Altesse, *Damas, le* 18 *Juin*, 1871.

PAR le précédent courrier j'ai eu l'honneur de faire part à votre Altesse du voyage que M. Burton avait à mon insu entrepris et exécuté dans le Hauran et parmi les Druses. A son rétour j'ai cru devoir lui adresser la lettre ci-incluse, et depuis lors j'ai eu des renseignements exacts sur les faits et gestes de M. le Consul Anglais parmi les Druses. A part ses "speeches" publics, il a eu des entretiens secrets avec la plupart des Chefs, et si l'un d'eux le plus influent, le nommé Hazimé, n'était venu en personne m'en faire la confidence, j'aurai eu autant de difficulté que d'hésitation y ajouter foi. M. Burton a annoncé aux Druses que le Khédive se préparait à faire la guerre à la Sublime Porte, et qu'il élevait des fortifications en Egypte et que bientôt une armée Egyptienne entrerait en Syrie. Mais ce qui va causer le comble de l'étonnement à votre Altesse, c'est que Burton a osé ajouter que moi aussi je m'entendais avec [illegible]pte, et, que le moment venu, je ferais cause commune avec le Khédive.

La plume me tombe des mains de stupeur et d'indignation. Que veut donc M. Burton? En répandant ces fausses nouvelles parmi les Druses, d'un côté il réveille en eux l'esprit de rébellion, leur faisant entrevoir un avenir menaçant, et de l'autre il cherche à saper l'autorité du vilayet en rendant les Druses méfiants à notre égard.

Jamais pareil attitude ne s'est vue chez un Agent de l'Angleterre. Il veut détruire par tous les moyens la paix relative qui règne maintenant dans le Hauran. Un homme comme Burton est un danger perpétuel pour ce pays.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) RACHID

Inclosure 5 in No. 36

M. Avadys to Consul Burton

M. le Consul, *Damas, le* 9 *Juin*, 1871.

J'AI l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance que, conformément à votre ordre, [illegible] je me suis présenté le 26 du mois passé chez Son Excellence le Mouchir pour réclamer le payement des soldes arriérées de M. Dupont, sujet Anglais, qui était au service du Gouvernement Ottoman dans le 3me corps d'armée, et qui avait donné sa démission et

fut acceptée. Le Mouchir me reçut très froidement, cependant il finit à me renvoyer avec le dit Docteur chez le Reis Pacha pour être payé. Son Excellence Soleyman Pacha, Chef d'Etat-Major, me reçut à son tour avec un air de dédain, et sans attendre que je lui expliquasse le but de ma mission, et sans me faire asseoir, il m'écria d'un ton fier en disant, "Qu'est ce que vous voulez, monsieur?" Je lui ai dit que je viens de la part du [illegible] pour réclamer le payement de M. Dupont. Eh bien, m'a-t-il [illegible] il ne faut pas presser trop. Je lui ai dit que c'est son Excellence le [illegible] chez lui, autrement je ne serai pas présenté. Eh bien! m'a-t-il dit, allez dire au Mouchir que je ne puis pas payer tout de suite.

Alors je fis remarquer au Reis Pacha que comme je venais de la part du Consulat je n'attendais pas à être mal reçu si brusquement et sans raison, et que je suis prêt à m'en aller devant un accueil si impoli. Il m'a dit, C'est assez, c'est assez; retirez-vous [illegible] portez une lettre [illegible]

Vous voyez, M. le Consul, de quelle manière les autorités militaires reçoivent-elles le Drogman de ce Consulat quand il se présente en sa qualité officielle.

(Signé) AVADYS.

No. 37

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received July 14.)

No. 81 Commercial.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July* 5, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Captain Burton, in reply to [illegible] reported to me the occurrence at Nazareth. As Captain Burton, after his return to Damascus, had sent me despatches on indifferent subjects, there could have been no [illegible] in forwarding a report upon the Nazareth affray, nor was there occasion for any special precaution in regard to it.

I have communicated to Server Effendi what Captain Burton says of the serious nature of the injury suffered by one of his attendants, and I said that, as there was every appearance of the Greeks having been guilty of a gross outrage, I hoped the [illegible] it would be properly dealt with.

His Excellency has assured me that, as soon as the guilt of the persons implicated is substantiated, they shall receive the merited punishment, there being on the part of the Government no sort of disposition to shield them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 37.

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot

(No. 9.)
Sir, *Damascus, June* 11, 1871.

IN reply to your Excellency's official letter of the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to explain the cause of the delay in reporting the attack upon my servants at Nazareth.

I was detained at Nazareth between May 5 and May 10 in order to watch the [illegible] proceedings of the local authorities. The Turkish post was certainly open to me, but my despatch would assuredly have been read, and most probably would never have reached its destination. Even at Damascus I am compelled to be most circumspect when addressing despatches to Constantinople or Beyrout. After an official visit to the Jews of Tiberia and Safet (whose protection papers have not been renewed for many years, some, indeed, since 1840), on returning to Damascus (May 19), I addressed an official report to his Excellency the Governor-General, who undertook to forward it to his Government, together with the version of the affair supplied to him by the Reverend the Greek Orthodox Bishop of Nazareth. My report to your Excellency was again delayed by waiting for the evidence of the Rev. Mr. Taylor and of his three fellow-travellers.

The delay has thus arisen from my wish to lay the case before your Excellency complete in all its details. I can, if desired, supply confirmatory evidence of all my assertions, and can prove, by the medical certificate of the physician attached to the Protestant Mission of Nazareth, the severe injuries received by two of my attendants:

a third, Mohammed Cawwas, an Afghan, a British subject, and an old soldier, has, I regret to say, in a most precarious state. He had concealed from me the severity of his injuries out of a sense of shame, but my companion, Mr. Drake, had heard of and had recorded them. Dr. Nicora, the sanitary officer placed here by the French Government, informed me four days ago that he had no hope of saving the wounded man.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

No. 38.

Earl Granville to Consul Burton

(No. 3.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, July 22, 1871.*

YOU were informed by a despatch written to you on the 19th of June, 1869, by direction of the late Earl of Clarendon, that very serious objections had been made to your appointment as Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus, and that, though his Lordship was willing to allow you to proceed to that post on receiving your assurance that the objections were unfounded, you were warned that it would be necessary that you should be recalled if the feeling stated to exist against you on the part of the Christian people of Damascus should prove to be well founded.

I regret to have now to inform you that the complaints which I have received from the Turkish Government in regard to your recent conduct and proceedings render it necessary that I should instruct you to resign your post as Consul in Syria; and I have accordingly to desire that you will, on receipt of this despatch, deliver the archives of Her Majesty's Consulate at Damascus to the person whom Mr. Consul-General Eldridge will appoint to carry on the duties of the Consulate until further orders.

You will, therefore, make your preparations for returning to this country with as little delay as possible.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 39.

Mr. Odo Russell to Consul-General Eldridge

(No. 18. Consular.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, July 22, 1871.*

I AM directed by Earl Granville to transmit to you, under flying seal, a despatch which his Lordship has addressed to Mr. Consul Burton,* setting forth the circumstances which have rendered it imperative that he should be relieved from his post as Consul at Damascus, and to Her Majesty's Consulate at Damascus; and I am to instruct you to appoint, without delay, some fit person to carry on the duties of the Consulate until some further arrangement shall have been come to.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 40.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 79. Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, July 14, 1871.*

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 81, Commercial, of the 5th instant, I inclose, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Mr. Consul Burton,* instructing him to return to this country and to hand over the archives of Her Majesty's Consulate at Damascus to the person whom Mr. Consul-General Eldridge may select for that purpose.

I am, &c.
(For Earl Granville),
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

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* No. 38.

No. 41.

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(Received July 25.)

(No. 5.)

My Lord, *Damascus, July 1, 1871.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

Inclosure in No. 41.

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot.

No. 17.

Sir, *Damascus, July 1, 1871.*

I HAVE the honour to bring the following circumstances to your Excellency's notice:—

About noon on Thursday, June 29, 1871, I received a letter from Miss James, Superintendent of the British Syrian Schools at Damascus, and covering a note from Mrs. Mentor Mott, of Beyrout. The object was to suggest active measures in the case of a Moslem convert to Christianity. Hadj Hassan el Arbagie, after having been waylaid and beaten (according to Dr. John Wortabet), had been ordered up from Beyrout to Damascus, in the custody of a policeman, by his Excellency the Governor-General.

I at once wrote to his Excellency representing that such action was an infraction of the Treaty of 1856, which secured life and liberty to the so-called "renegades." On the evening of the same day his Excellency replied to me, apparently ignoring the [illegible] and denying my right to interfere in a matter concerning the subject of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan. At the same time he courteously forwarded for my perusal a despatch which he had addressed to the Doyen of the Consular Corps, Beyrout, complaining of the conduct of Protestant missionaries, in secret proselytism, though he admitted that the convert, Hassan, had openly attended a Christian [illegible] for some time; and justifying the arrest of the convert upon the plea of his requiring to be "counselled."

Haj Hassan arrived at Damascus on the evening of Thursday the 29th ultimo. On the morning of Friday, the 30th ultimo, I requested Mr. Selim Meshaka, Dragoman of this Consulate, to wait upon his Excellency, and to beg that the convert might be visited by the resident missionaries, Messrs. Wright and Crawford.

The answer was a refusal. I was on the point of sending a telegram to your Excellency when it was announced to me that the prisoner had been set free. On the [illegible] to assure him that such an act of justice and toleration would win for him the esteem and good-will of the Christian community in Syria.

Haj Hassan, after being placed in safety at Her Majesty's Consulate, will leave Damascus this evening in charge of the Rev. M. Waldmeier, of the British Syrian Schools, [illegible] murder the convert after his return home. His Excellency Raouf Pasha Mutasarrif, of that city, is strong enough to prevent such an outrage; and a telegram from Constantinople, to the effect that justice is expected from him, would doubtless determine the authorities energetically to protect the convert.

On the morning of Friday, the 30th ultimo, it was reported to me that a certain Arif ibn Abd-el-Ghani-el-Nablusi (a well-known family at Nablus), who had sacrilegiously stolen fourteen lamps and a silver padlock, had been found hanging in the prison of the Great Amauri Mosque at Damascus. Knowing the locality well, I cannot understand how the man could have hanged himself without attracting the attention of the numerous night guardians, not to speak of the Indian and Afghan pilgrims who swarm in the cloisters; nor do I see why an inquest was not held upon the body. It is certain that some years ago the man in question became a Christian at Athens, and that a strong feeling against him existed at Damascus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

No. 42.

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(Received July 25.)

(No. 18.)

My Lord, *Damascus, July 5, 1871.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a despatch addressed by me to Her Majesty's Ambassador, Constantinople, and to solicit for it your Lordship's attention.

The existence of these large claims is a continual source of irritation to the local authorities: it is my duty to press them; it is their interest to repel them. Since [illegible] somewhat facilitated. My letters, which before were laid aside for months, are now answered after the shortest possible interval. As regards the apparent resolution at head-quarters here to take my proceedings in all part, and to regard all movements with [illegible]

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 42

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot.

No. 17

Sir, *Damascus, July 1, 1871.*

IN [illegible], Haj Hassan appeared at Her Majesty's [illegible], and on Saturday, July 1, I made a *procès verbal* of his case since he left [illegible] if he did not [illegible]

I venture to hope that this step [illegible] ria to the great principle of reli[illegible]ce. It is, [illegible] people, whom his want of fanaticism [illegible] to the world his contempt of European opinion and Consular interference.

I have deemed it my duty to address his Excellency with a request for information touching the death of Arif Effendi ibn Abd el Ghani el Nablusi. The Governor-General, however, returned my letter, declaring that any reply to it would be a personal [illegible] am therefore compelled to offer an unofficial version of the death which I have collected from many reliable sources.

It appears that the deceased returned to the Libanus about three years ago, and represented himself to be a Moslem converted to Christianity (Greek Orthodox), that [illegible]

I venture to hope that your Excellency will cause this mysterious death, which is terrifying the Christians and reposing the Moslems of Damascus, to be made the subject of official inquiry, and will oppose the illegal banishment of the convert Haj Hassan. Both cases evidence the state of affairs actually existing in Syria under the present administration.

The convert Haj Hassan, when making his deposition at the Consulate, declared that a Moslem acquaintance of his named Hans madeh ibn el Bekk, a native of Latikia, and domiciled at Beyrout, had disappeared about twelve days before the date of the *procès verbal* (July 1). I will not vouch for the truth of this report.

The Treaty of February 12, 1856 (Hertslet, vol. x. p.), absolutely confirms life and liberty to all converts and so-called renegades. But that concession was made in direct opposition to the spirit of the Moslem world, which denounces the apostate as being unworthy to live, and which holds his private assassination lawful and right. As early as December 1857, one of my predecessors, Mr. Consul Brandt, C.B., was compelled to invoke the aid of Her Majesty's Ambassador, Constantinople, in order to guarantee the immunity of the Moslem convert Khalil, and the affair was not settled without a long and exciting correspondence.

Almost as soon as I took charge of this Consulate (October 1869), certain Moslems, belonging to the Shazili order of Dervishes, became Catholics, and fell under the displeasure of the local Government. As they took refuge in the Spanish Casa Santa, as Catholic questions were then chiefly in the hands of France, and as the converts dealt in strange stories about visions and the supernatural falling off of their fetters, I did not think it proper to move in the matter. Still, it attracted the attention of travellers, especially of Mr. George Lane Fox.

It appears, then, that the Moslem authorities in Syria do not consider themselves bound to treat the person of the convert as inviolable. In his letter of June 29, 1871, his Excellency the Governor-General suggests that I should have pointed out the Article which forbade him to bring up the Haj Hassan under charge of a policeman to Damascus, and to place him in the house occupied by the chief of police.

In conclusion, without wishing in any way to impede freedom of action in cases of conversion, I venture to suggest that missionaries, especially Protestant missionaries in Syria, be invited carefully and conscientiously to consider whether they are justi[illegible] in exposing a Moslem convert to the imminent risk of losing his life, and by irritating a fanatical people to risk causing for themselves and their co-religionists such outbreaks of fury as characterized the last decade at Aleppo, Jeddah, and Damascus.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON

Inclosure 2 in No. 42

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot

(No. 17.)

Sir, *Damascus, July 4, 1871.*

AT the risk of importuning your Excellency I am compelled once more to represent the wrongs done to British subjects and protegés residing in this vilayet, and to forward a list of their claims, some of [illegible] his Excellency [illegible] to ignore all foreign [illegible] influence of European [illegible]

The three claims first mentioned date from the days before my taking charge of this Consulate. I have exercised all possible patience in the matter, and have freely given to the [illegible] to procure justice. At last it has become evident to me that the repeated promises by word of mouth, by letter, and by telegram were made only to be broken, and that the rights of British subjects and protegés will be withheld until your Excellency thinks proper to press for their being granted. I need hardly point out that my determination to procure from the local Government payment of its lawful debts is most distasteful to his Excellency the Governor-General and to all his subordinates. They cannot view

with pleasure so large a sum diverted into the pockets of foreign protégés, and they [illegible] by all means, direct and indirect. The latter is, of course, the favourite [illegible].

With respect to the claims Nos. 3 and 4, Vizirial letters were forwarded to your Excellency and in several of my despatches (for instance, those of January 4, 1871, and [illegible] 1871) I have [illegible] the settlement of those claims, and thus represented to your Excellency [illegible] were ambiguous, and were evidently written under the usual [illegible]. I need hardly say that, even had they been satisfactory, the [illegible] sign would have made them of no avail.

The Vizirial letters having failed to produce any effect, I [illegible] your Excellency [illegible] claims in question, and to suggest that the amount, which may reach 6,000, [illegible] persons [illegible] disputed points might be referred either to Her Majesty's Consul-General for Syria [illegible] myself.*

Such a Commission, especially if the Ottoman members are carefully chosen at Constantinople, would [illegible] subjects of all [illegible] securing their rights and privileges in the time to come.

My expectation is that a *bond fide* order will be sent from Constantinople directing [illegible] until his Excellency, Mohammed Rashid Pasha, finds it no longer [illegible] to govern Syria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 42

List of long-pending British Claims presented at different times to Rashid Pasha.

1. Mr. Yakub Stambouli, Jewish protected subject.—The case of this claimant [illegible] was made in 1867 and 1868 by the local Government, who [illegible] Mr. Consul-General Wood (July 16, 1869). The amount presented to this Consulate as far back as December 6, 1869, amounted to 2,572,375 piastres, to which interest and compound [illegible] was forwarded [illegible] I lodged and I waited upon his Excellency the Governor-General in order to plead [illegible] but nothing has been done, and after promise upon promise, the case is still [illegible].

2. Mr. Telmina Fuchs, Jewish protected subject.—This claim has been more than [illegible] June 21, 1871. [illegible] the document whereby directed that the claim be raised from Bedouin plunderers who have already been stripped, in the claimant's name, of all their property.

* Should the Sublime Porte object to the expense of such a Commission, the Commissioners might be reduced from two or three to one on each side.

3. Messrs. Finzi, Barbour, and Co., an Anglo-Belgian house, established at St. Jean d'Acre.—Their claim was undertaken by me in November 1869, pursued by Mr. Consul-General Eldridge, and reported by me in No. 13 of June 27, 1871. On January 4, 1870, the amount was 225,000 piastres, to which must be added interest at the rate of 18 per cent. per annum. This case was also supposed to have been settled by the Vizirial letter, dated Shuban 13, A.H. 1286 (February 25, 1871). But, instead of ordering the ex-Governor of Acre, Mahommed Bey el Yusuf, who authorized the heads of villages to ignore their debts, and who thus ruined the firm, to pay the sums with whose recouping he had maliciously interfered, the document confuses the demands from the villagers with the demands from the ex-Governor. Moreover, it does not mention the sum due, nor does it order any inquiry to be made into the case of Messrs. Finzi and Barbour's servant, the Druse Yusuf Hamdan, who was beaten and tortured in the ex-Governor's private house. M. Finzi, junior, on June 6, 1871, visited Damascus, in order to push his claim. The case has been ignored by the Governor-General, and there is, at present, no prospect of the house being able to save itself from ruin.

4. M. Yusuf Smuhah, Jewish-protected subject.—This claim upon certain Bedawin who had plundered his camels close to Damascus, was reported by me to the local Government in [illegible] total of 15,300 piastres.

Amongst minor claims are the following:

That of Sulyman el Haddad, the English courier from Baghdad, plundered by the Ruwalla Bedawin of goods valued at 60½ ghazis (= 16 napoleons 10 francs), and reported by me to the local Government on January 10, 1870, and lastly on May 23, 1871.

2. That of Mr. Excursionist Gaze, whose party was plundered at Kunaytemh of [illegible]. Reported the theft to the local Government on May 21, 1871, and again on [illegible], 1871.

3. M. Hanna Azar, Dragoman to this Consulate.—On the 22nd June, 1871, the [illegible] Bedawin and others attacked his village Suwaydah, and plundered from it 7[illegible] of barley, valued at 7,700 piastres. After I had made repeated representations, his Excellency the Wali sent certain inspectors to estimate the damage done, and those persons, by threatening the Sheikhs of the neighbouring villages with the vengeance of the Bedawin, secured testimony to the effect that the loss was only 120 mudds, and that the plunder was the work of the wild Arabs.

[illegible] cases which cannot be called claims, but which call for settlement, are [illegible].

[illegible] on of the Protestant Cemetery by the people of the Shaghur quarter [illegible] outrage has occurred thrice within twenty months, and, where justice is so studiously withheld, I can hardly hope that it will not be renewed. The [illegible] July 20, 1871. I would suggest that a fine of 20 napoleons be levied from the Moslems of the Shaghur quarter, to be applied to repairing the tombs, and to building a second or outer wall [illegible] would render the place inaccessible. Such a measure [illegible] and is the only measure capable of arresting [illegible].

2. The Syrian Schools have been long applying [illegible] Nasrah, and I am informed that a despatch [illegible] Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs with a view of [illegible] application. I need hardly say that where the claims of justice are so [illegible], all my endeavours during upwards of a year have failed to obtain an [illegible].

[illegible] of Beyrout, agent to Messrs. Asad Yalzal and Co., of [illegible] was endeavouring, but in vain, to have an order carried [illegible] that issued it. At last he addressed a complaint to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. It was the custom at Damascus (for [illegible] case of M. Furry, No. 15 of March 13, 1858) temporarily to confer British protection upon agents for English firms, or for firms settled in England, and I venture to recommend that such a step be taken in this instance. Asad Yalzal Bey has a son born in England, and the family is exposed to be ruined by the personal animosity of his Excellency the Governor-General.

No. 43

Mr. Drake to Earl Granville.—(Received July 27.)

My Lord, *Damascus, July 8, 1871*

I CONSIDER [illegible] my duty to state, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, that I consider the telegram sent by his Excellency Rashid Pasha to Constantinople on the 3rd instant, relative to the disturbance at Nazareth, to be a gross misrepresentation of the facts of the case. I was present at the time, and can show that the telegram contains a tissue of falsehoods from beginning to end.

[illegible] several years [illegible] my present [illegible] leaves me to mix much with the people.

As I was travelling at the time with Captain Burton I saw the whole of the affair at Nazareth, and am thoroughly acquainted with the proceedings which have taken place since. I can show that the telegram sent to Constantinople by his Excellency the Wali two days before Captain Burton's return to Damascus is a malicious perversion of the truth. His Excellency, of course, only heard the Greek side, and was too glad to be able to report, to Captain Burton's detriment, such a (seemingly) grave matter. I forwarded an account of the *émeute* to Sir Henry Elliot, Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary, Constantinople (on June 10, 1871), as I knew that absurdly false reports had been sent with the Wali's knowledge and sanction. Had I known that an official in his high position would have personally attacked Captain Burton behind his back in such a dastardly and ungentlemanly way, I should have taken the liberty of writing to your Lordship as well.

I also accompanied Captain Burton for the few days that he was in the Hauran, and was present at every interview, long or short, that he had with any of the Druses. On one occasion his advice was asked respecting the course of action they ought to pursue. He shortly replied that they must submit to the Turkish Government, and that it would be madness to oppose it. To this they agreed. Except in these few minutes politics were never touched upon. Our trip to the Hauran was simply devoted to geographical and antiquarian researches; but at the same time we naturally desired to see some of the people, and Captain Burton, not wishing to be away from Damascus more than a few days, invited some of the Sheikhs to meet us at Kanawat, as we could not spare time to visit them separately. This they were very glad to do.

As regards the telegram sent by his Excellency, Rashid Pasha, to the Wezer at [illegible] sense, "Un rassemblement d'enfants encombrait les abords de l'église; une querelle s'éleva entre ces enfants et les domestiques du Consul," gives an utterly false impression. We were camped about 80 yards from the outer wall surrounding the church, and at least 160 yards from the entrance to the church. The children never meddled or were meddled with. The Copt, who came up to the tents and wished to enter [illegible] servants, and thus began the disturbance, was at least 18 or 19 years old. The continuation, "ce dernier [*i. e.*, le Consul] s'étant armé pour prendre part à la querelle et s'étant servi de ces armes contre les Grecs," can only be designated as a lie. Captain Burton and I, hearing the disturbance, which was behind the church wall, as the Greeks had decoyed the servants thither, ran down, half-dressed, in our slippers, and unarmed. I can only admire and praise Captain Burton's coolness in firing one shot only over the heads of the mob with a pistol, which one of the servants had, and which was the only one amongst the whole party in the riot.

Again the sentence, "Quelques uns des domestiques furent légèrement blessés," can only be stigmatized as a lie, which the Wali has since tried to prove true by the testimony of two self-entitled doctors, whose testimony is so absurd as to prove its own falsehood. Two of the servants lay for several days unable to move, and one continued to spit blood till after his return to Damascus. The Kawass, an Afghan, complained to me (as I mentioned in my letter to Sir H. Elliot) of being severely struck in the groin, but was too brave to lay up for it. Since the date of that letter he has been near death's door with a very bad gangrened rupture (I speak as an eye-witness), but is happily now recovering.

The telegram goes on to state that extenuating circumstances are found in the fact that the attack upon the Consul's person was not made with arms. Large stones, however, when thrown by a mob of 100 to 150 men, at a distance of a few feet, are weapons of offence not to be despised. The only wonder I can feel is that none of our party were killed.

As regards the exaction made by the Consul for the prisoners to be taken to Damascus, I beg deferentially to suggest that it was in the power of the Turkish [illegible] Burton's [illegible] I think it cannot but suggest itself as a snare set by his Excellency Rashid Pasha.

Again, the Christians are said to have protested their innocence, declaring that they were provoked on a fête-day by the Consul shooting at them with bullets. The latter part is a double lie, as they were neither shot at nor did they say so at Nazareth. Of course they protested their innocence, as criminals usually do, but the accused were thoroughly identified. Several, whose identification was doubtful, were instantly dismissed.

There was a certain amount of feeling against Captain Burton on the part of the Greeks for his having opposed their lawless appropriation of an old synagogue at Tiberias, which was clearly Jewish property. The Wali, too, favours the Greeks in [illegible] Burton is naturally hated by his Excellency the Wali as being the only man in the country—I speak advisedly, and the same will be found to be the opinion of all educated natives who have the true interests of Syria at heart, and do not look on the [illegible] In conclusion, I may say that [illegible] throughout the length and breadth of the country, I never heard a good word spoken [illegible] Rashid Pasha, nor a bad one against Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus. The general prayer, often confidentially expressed to me throughout the whole Vilayet of Syria, is, that Captain Burton's influence might be extended by making [illegible] General, and that the present Governor-General, Rashid Pasha, may be removed; "for," say the people, "we cannot in any way lose, and we probably shall gain by the change, for it is hardly likely that another man can be found who [illegible]

[illegible] Consul, who will neither accept bribes, nor, when it lies in his power [illegible] energetically demands that commodity so distasteful to Turkish officials—viz., ample justice.

Hoping that your Lordship will consider this letter of sufficient importance to excuse its length,

(Signed) CHAS. F. TYRWHITT DRAKE

No. 44.

Consul-General Eldridge to Earl Granville.—(Received July 31.)

(No. 12.)

My Lord, *Aleh, Mount Lebanon, July 12, 1871.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch of this day's date, which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, respecting Captain Burton's recent visit to the Hauran.

I have, &c.

(Signed) S. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure in No. 44.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Aleh, Mount Lebanon, July 12, 1871*

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Excellency's despatch of the 20th ultimo, forwarding to me, under flying seal, your despatch to Captain Burton, and requesting

to be informed of any explanation he may have made to me in reference to his invitation to the Chiefs to meet him, and to his visit to the Hauran.

Beyond a few vague expressions in private letters, I have received from Captain Burton no explanations respecting his visit to the Hauran, or of the letter addressed to the Chiefs, which seems to me to have been simply intended to give notice of his journey to those who might wish to see him

With reference to the statement in Captain Burton's telegram of the 2[illegible] that I made no objection to his journey, I beg to repeat what I stated in my despatch of the 15th ultimo, that I only heard of Captain Burton's intention by a private letter from him, dated the 23rd of May, and received by me about noon on the 25th, in which he says, "I start from Jebel Druse to-morrow morning," that is, on the 24th, so that I could not have made any objection to the journey, which was already commenced, and Captain Burton would have passed the first place mentioned in his letter to the Chiefs before I heard of it

I have, &c
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

No. 45

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(Received August 1.)

(No. 9.)

My Lord, *Damascus, July 12, 1871.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, a copy of my despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON

Inclosure 1 in No. 45.

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 22

Sir, *Damascus, July 12, 1871*

I HAVE [illegible] the copy of a letter yesterday [illegible] by Mr. Zeller, [illegible] Nazareth, [illegible] Mr. C. F. Tyrwhitt Drake, and by the Rev. Mr. Taylor and his three companions—the fourth, Rev. Mr. Northey, having left the party before they gave their witness in presence of the Criminal Tribunal [illegible]

I have to add my testimony that this gentleman's written testimony [illegible] by a fellow-traveller, Mr C. F. Tyrwhitt Drake, and by the Rev. Mr. Taylor and his three companions—the fourth, Rev. Mr. Northey, having left the party before they gave their witness in presence of the Criminal Tribunal [illegible]

Upon my return to this city I reported to the Governor-General the police arrangements which [illegible] was not even noticed.

The Latins are now in a minority at Nazareth, and the Greeks have become the petty tyrants of the place. I am the first European that they have grossly assaulted, but few have passed through Nazareth without being robbed by them; and did travellers understand the foul and insulting language used to them, there would be trouble any time a caravan halts there.

I have, &c.
Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON

Inclosure 2 in No. [illegible]

Mr Zeller to Consul Burton.

Dear Sir, *Nazareth, June 28, 1871.*

ON my return from Jerusalem the 20th instant, I found your letters of May 23 and June 9, with the order from his Excellency the Wali regarding Mich. Kawar. I beg to thank you, in the name of the Protestant community, for your kind assistance,

and I hope this order, demanding that in no case a Protestant should be tried, except in the presence of their representative, may be the means of protecting them in future from injustice

I am very sorry to see that the tone of the Greeks is still of a defiant character, and that they, not only at Damascus, but also at Jerusalem, spread [illegible] the hope to escape the punishment which their br[illegible] yourself and your servants so well deserves. I deeply regret this occurr[illegible] well aware that the savage conduct of the Greek Christians may lead [illegible] exaggerated idea of their turbulent character. Yet, since Protestant missionaries came to Nazareth in 1850, the behaviour of the Greeks formed a favourable contrast to the [illegible] of the Latin Christians, who repeatedly attacked the mis[illegible] their premises. The conduct of the Greeks on the 5th of May was probably not prompted by any ill-feeling against European travellers, none of wh[illegible]n; however it shows the [illegible] who, heedless of the conse[illegible]y one, relying on the superior number of their [illegible]y The defiant spirit exhibited by the Greeks after this occurrence is [illegible]ually due to the influence of their leaders, who often use their power to prevent [illegible] punishment of an offender if [illegible] belongs to their party, and thus vitiate the moral ideas of the people, whilst Turkish officials are too weak to offer any opposition. All measures taken by you for the arrest and subsequent punishment of the ringleaders, were therefore [illegible]y necessary. For if an outrage like this could escape [illegible]man would in future visit Nazareth without a feeling of shame, [illegible] experiencing considerable inconvenience.

This riot strikingly shows the necessity of an improvement in the Police arrangements of this place. Nazareth is every year visited by a large number of English travellers, and they, as well as the English residents here, have neither the assistance [illegible] a Consulate within easy reach. It is, [illegible] perfectly trustworthy individual should [illegible] independent of the above-mentioned [illegible] guarantee for the security of foreigners

[illegible] some further particulars should be welcome to you, I [illegible] my knowledge goes, be happy to give it

With kind regards, I remain, &c.
(Signed) JOHN ZELLER.

No. 46

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 1.)

(No. 91. Commercial.)

Sir, *Therapia, July 24, 1871.*

[illegible] CONSUL BURTON has forwarded to your Lordship a copy of his despatch [illegible] of the pending British claims at Damascus, and stating his inability [illegible] ment of them

I [illegible] the correctness of what Captain Burton asserts in this respect; [illegible] between the Consul and the authorities are such as those [illegible] ly prevailing at Damascus, many simple cases, which a little good-will on [illegible] would easily have brought to a conclusion, inevitably remain unsettled, and ultimately necessitate appeals to Her Majesty's Embassy and to the Porte, which would otherwise have been avoided

Your Lordship will not wish me to go through the list sent by Captain Burton, [illegible] I may state [illegible] proves, on examination, less formidable than I [illegible] [illegible] part, of a secondary importance, and of the class which contributes in no small degree to the heavy routine work of this Embassy, but with which I do not ordinarily think it necessary to take up your [illegible]ship's time

[illegible] respecting [illegible] of Captain Burton of the 21st of [illegible] of his claims, and recommending that he [illegible] Consulate.

[illegible] complicated nature, involving legal difficulties, [illegible] ignored," as Captain Burton supposes. It had

M

formed the subject of a correspondence from Her Majesty [illegible]
to whom, on the 20th of May, I forwarded the reply wh[illegible]
Porte to the representations that I had made respect[illegible]
those which had been brought to my knowledge, previous to the comp[illegible]
Captain Burton by the Vali, were being dealt with at the Porte in the usual manner, but those which I have subsequently received have been allowed to stand over in order that they might not be prejudiced by the ill-feeling at present prev[illegible]
Damascus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT

Inclosure in No. [illegible]

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot

(Confidential.)

Damascus, November [illegible]

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to draw your Excell[illegible]s attention to the f[illegible]low
aff[illegible]s in Damascus.

In former days, when not a few European Consuls were open to corto[illegible] ments, which made them take the highest interest in the business transactions of their clients, a radically bad system, happily now almost extinct, was introduced into Syria. The European subject, or protegé, instead of engaging in honest commerce, was encouraged to seek immoderate and usurious profits by sales to the Governmen[illegible]ions to the villagers. In such cases he, of course, relied entirely upon the protec[illegible] of a Foreign Power, on account of the sums to be expended in feeing native functionaries before repayment could be expected. Thus the Consuls became, as it were, brokers or bonds, whose principal duty it was to collect the bad debts of those who had foreign passports.

Damascus contains a total of forty-eight adult males, protected by Her Majesty's Consulate, and of these the three principal are Messrs. Daud Harari, Tshek Toby, and Yaakub Stambouly. All are Jews, who were admitted to, or whose fathers required, a foreign nationality, given with the benevolent object of saving them from Moslem cruelty and oppression in days gone by. These protegés have extended what was granted for the preservation of their lives, liberties, and property, to transactions which rest entirely for success upon British protection. The case of M. Yaakub Stambouly, whose family, as his name denotes, is from Constantinople, and whose affairs must be known by repeated representations to Her Majesty's Embassy, will explain what I mean. He has few dealings in the city, the best field of action. But since the death of Saadallah, his highly-respectable father, in 1851, he has been allowing bills, signed by the ignorant peasantry of the province, to accumulate at simple and compound interest, till the liabilities of the villagers have become greater than the value of the whole village. Arneh, for instance, on the eastern skirt of Mount Hermon, owes him 100,000 piastres, which were originally 42,000 piastres. He claims 35,000 napoleons from the Jumblatt family, upon a total debt of 212,000½ piastres in 1857. I have not yet passed through a single settlement where his debtors did not complain loudly of his proceedings; and to Arneh may be added Azra, Zebedani, and Medjel-el-Shamo,—a stronghold of the Druses. Some villages have been partly depopulated by his exactions, and the injury done to the Druses by thus driving them from the Anti-Lebanons to the Hauran, may presently be severely visited upon the Jehonna[illegible] This British protégé is compelled every year, in his quality of shubasi (farmer of revenue), to summon the village Sheikhs, and peasantry, to imprison them, and leave them lying in jail till he can squeeze from them as much as possible, and to injure them by quartering hawaks or police upon them, who plunder whatever they can. He long engrossed the whole attention, though it has other and more important duties of the Village Commission ("Kaimakam el Mukasibet el Karaza") established in A.H. 1280 (1863).

For about a year a Special Commission ("Kaimakam Makhama") has been sitting on his case, whose intricacies, complicated by his unwillingness to settle anything [illegible] who is its President, to the Consular Dragomans who [illegible] amounted to him: he is accused of bribing the [illegible] its sentences of doubtful

seals, made at h[illegible] by his own servants. But lately, one of the latter publa[illegible] denounced him, but w[illegible] s usual, paid to keep silence. He is reported again and again to have refused, in ord[illegible] that the peasants might remain upon his books, the ready-offered [illegible] final settlement of village liabilities. I have attempted to bring these [illegible]; his good management has baffled all my efforts, whilst k[illegible]g me morally certain that t[illegible] charges are founded on fact. He corrupts or attempts to corrupt all [illegible] with whom he has dealings. I was compelled to dismiss, shortly after taking charge, a dragoman who was his paid agent. M. Stambouly and his son openly state that they secured, for a sum of 100*l.*, the good offices of my immediate predecessor, the Acting Consul, Mr. Wood, junior, and that Mr. Rogers, whom he relieved, was also open to such arrangements. In my own case they proceeded, till summarily stopped, to throw out direct hints touching Arab mares, and indirect ones touching diamond rings.

[illegible] scandals, which do not, however, exhaust the list, make me desirous of placing M. Yaakub Stambouly, and the two other Jewish-protected subjects, upon a footing which will prevent them from breeding mischief in this Consulate.

With your Excellency's permission I would inform them that British protection extends to preserving their persons and property from all injustice and violence; but that it will not assist them to recover debts from the Ottoman Government, or from the Villagers of the Province, nor that it will not abet them in imprisoning or in detaining the latter. To such general rule, of course, exceptions would be admissible at the discretion of the officer in charge of Her Majesty's Consulate, in cases, for instance, of just and honest claims might be rejected, or their payment unduly delayed. The [illegible] ce which can arise to such creditors from their altered position would be the necessity of feeing the Serai more heavily than at present, and even now they openly communicate with the local authorities, reserving the Consulate as a [illegible] hope. The change may possibly direct [illegible] be exceedingly [illegible] will relieve us from the suspicions of interested mot[illegible] where honour and honesty are almost unknown, and from the odium which attaches [illegible] cial instruments of oppression. Finally, the almost universal corruption of [illegible] of the good [illegible] of the Consulate, and the more desirous of perse[illegible] rtain reports which have be[illegible] spread about those in office.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

No. 47

Mr. Odo Russell to Mr. Drake.

Foreign Office, August 4, 1871.

Sir,

I AM directed by Earl Granville to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th ultimo, containing an account of the circumstances attending the recent disturbances at Nazareth; and I am, in reply, to express to you his Lordship's thanks for the communication.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 48

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 8.)

Damascus, July 11, 1871.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Odo Russell's despatch No. 1 of the 11th ultimo, which has been delayed *en route*, and to supply full details concerning the inclosed telegram from the Governor-General of Syria to Aali Pasha.

The telegram, I will observe, is dated May 16, or two days before my return to Damascus, after the short leave granted by your Lordship. It is, therefore, purely an *ex parte* statement, the Greek view of the case adopted by the Governor-General. Its tone and tenor show its animus sufficiently well.

[illegible] ve, and my "peregri[illegible] show me the serious [illegible] leaving [illegible] city to inspect my district, I always place Her Majesty's Consulate under [illegible] and with him are associated three other Dragomans, so that work is never interrupted. I cannot ascertain the truth of a single report without visiting in person the place whence it originated. I therefore hope that your Lordship will be pleased to leave my movements within the range of this Consulate free and unfettered; in fact, at my own discretion. The despatches which will presently reach you may serve to prove that [illegible] knowledge of the country which others do not possess after as many years of residence.

It was not an assembly of children that collected round the Greek church on [illegible]. My fellow-traveller, Mr. C. F. Tyrwhitt Drake, can bear witness to the truth [illegible].

I did not arm myself in order to take part in the quarrel. My fellow-traveller and I left our tents to see what the disturbance was, and, being unarmed, we ran the risk of losing our lives. Stones are weapons at Nazareth.

I did not use my arms against the Greeks, nor did I fire bullets at them. I took a pistol from one of my servants and I discharged it once in the air. Most men, when attacked by a furious mob, and three times struck at a distance of nine or ten feet, would not have been so merciful. The moderation of my conduct is testified to by the [illegible].

My servants were not slightly wounded; three were severely injured, and of these one has been lamed upon the [illegible] of brain. Another spat blood for a fortnight. I can, if necessary, forward medical certificates, signed by Dr. Varton, of the Nazareth Mission, and by Dr. Nicom, the surgeon established by the French Government at Jerusalem.

I did not exact that several persons should be sent, with hands tied, to Damascus. I had my complaint in due form before the Governor and the tribunal of Nazareth: both were powerless to punish the offenders. I then sent a special messenger to St. Jean d'Acre, the *chef lieu* of the Department, requesting that a telegram be addressed to the Governor-General to the effect that [illegible] being most active in the affray, by myself and others, and to request that [illegible] leaders might be sent in irons to Damascus. One of [illegible] marched down to St. Jean d'Acre by the orders of the [illegible] there upon a so-called sick certificate, and ten were marched up to Damascus [illegible] that a trial for murder might have been necessary. But I exacted nothing. I applied [illegible] was allowed.

[illegible] No. 31, Damascus [illegible] stantinople of his wishing to obstruct the free action of the local [illegible] rnor-General has a personal [illegible] Syria into the pockets of European protégés.

During the latter months of 1869, and almost through 1870, I patiently listened, as was reported by me* (No. 17, July 4, 1871) to the succession of promises by word [illegible] as is his wont, put off my just requisitions. Early in 1871 I deemed it my duty [illegible].

* Inclosure 2 in No. 42.

subjects, which, as shown in the same despatch (No. 17), may amount to 6,000,000 piastres, delays which were ruining sundry houses.

Hence the hostility of Rashid Pasha. He has left nothing untried to injure a Consular Officer who has dared to do his duty. Hence, and hence only it is, that "serious complaints in regard to my general proceedings have been made by the Porte to Her Majesty's Government." My only desire is an opportunity of answering all such complaints; they are, doubtless, as unfounded and as malicious as the telegram which has now been noticed.

Meanwhile I am urging the claims of British subjects through Her Majesty's Embassy, and I venture to hope that I may be permitted to superintend the settlement of these claims, with whose every item the study of twenty months has made me familiar.

Your Lordship should be informed that, during the last month, Rashid Pasha has been preparing for an attack upon the Druse Mountain, which was frustrated by my timely visit. He has openly sold to the Greek Bishop of Nazareth a graveyard and a synagogue at Tiberias, which have belonged to the Jews for the last 400 years.

I am protesting energetically against this injustice. And he has, contrary to the Treaty of 1856, which secures life and liberty to all converts throughout the Ottoman dominions, lately imprisoned a certain Haj Hassan, a Moslem, who became a Christian at Beyrout. I have again offended him by protesting against this proceeding. His violence and rapacity are precipitating a movement of the utmost gravity. I shall not fail to represent it to your Lordship as soon as all the details are in my hands.

I am too well acquainted with the justice of Her Majesty's Government to fear that it will be influenced against one of its servants by the wearying succession of petty complaints, which is the favourite tactic of Rashid Pasha. His action in the affair of Nazareth proves how unfit he is for the high and honourable position which he occupies. It has been a real calamity to Syria that this Governor-General, a *protégé* of Aali Pasha, should have been allowed to rule it for the unusual term of five years, and to cause in it an amount of discontent, of misery, of absolute starvation before unknown. It is lamentable to see an active and comparatively industrious peasantry in one of the richest provinces of the Empire driven to live on grass and wild roots. And it is to be hoped that even the large sums of money which Rashid Pasha is known to remit to Constantinople will not save him from the disgrace which he merits.

The Governor-General, by forwarding the *ex parte* statement of his Greek friends, and by virtually endorsing its truth, has succeeded in having me placed under a kind of arrest, a circumstance which has not happened to me during my twenty-nine years' service of the Crown. I am directed not to quit the city of Damascus at a peculiarly [illegible] residents have left it for their summer quarters.

Having shown that the proceedings of the Governor-General are actuated by malice, I venture to hope that your Lordship will see justice done to me.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON

Inclosure in No. 48

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot.

No. 27.)

Sir, *Damascus, July 19, 1871.*

IN several of my despatches, especially in that of June 9, 1871,* marked Confidential, I had the honour to inform your Excellency that Rashid Pasha, Governor-General of Syria, had filled all the important posts with his friends and retainers. After the Belka Expedition of July, 1869, he obtained from the Sublime Porte additional powers, and before the year had ended he dismissed many functionaries, and he promoted and decorated those placed in their stead. Since that time he has carefully excluded from office all except his own nominees. The following list of names and appointments proves the correctness of my statement, and it may explain the popular report that Syria is ready to join what is now called the Quintuple Alliance, and to declare her independence as soon as Egypt turns.

The important Governorship (Mutsarrifik) of Hums (Emessa) and Namah (Epiphania) are now in the hands of Perto Pasha. This officer, originally a soldier in the Bashi Bazouks, was promoted by Rashid Pasha. Of Bedawi origin, he can command the active aid of his kinsmen, the Issawaldy, the Subaa and other clans, which may be

* Inclosure 2 in No. 36.

able to bring 3,000 lances into the field. His brother, Mohamed Bey, has been made Governor of Mazyad in the Ansayri (Anagric) mountains.

Tripoli is under Vesi Pasha, an old favourite of the Governor-General, by whose orders he plundered the Sedani tribes about Hums and Hamah. This post was held by Abd-el-Nadir Pasha, who, being a man of independent character, has been moved successively from Tripoli to Beyrout, and from Beyrout to Hums and Hamah. He is now shelved at Damascus.

At Baalbek As'as[illegible]
Sabik Bey, lately promoted [illegible]
Beyrout has been comma[illegible]
His movements are controlled by M. Delenda, a Smyrniote Greek, entituled, "Ma'amur Politika" (Political Chief). This person is said to have been brought up in Paris with Fuad el Pasha, and he is held to exercise an influence the reverse of wholesome.

The Mutasarrif of Damascus is Ibrahim Pasha, an officer who gained but little credit as a member of the Tribunal of Commerce in this city. He was, however, promoted by Rashid Pasha to a Pashalik, and to the Government of the Hauran, and thence he was translated to the important post of Damascus. He is controlled by the Governor-General's Interpreter, a Greek, whose true name is Petros Dufrenos, but who is known as Sugat Effendi, and who is looked upon by all as an active partizan of the Greco-Russian party. His influence at Damascus is all [illegible]

The Mutasarrifik of the Hauran Pla[illegible]
Yusuf, whom I have mentioned in my despatches No. 13 of June 27, 1871, and No. 17 of July 4, 1871.* This young man, a Kurd of wealthy family, succeeded in ruining the house of MM. Frieze and Barbon at St. Jean d'Acre.

The Gharb el Buzao (Western Coelosyria) is under Mustapha Effendi, an old Inspector of the Douane at Damascus. He owes all his advancement to Rashid Pasha.

Sayda (Sidon) has been reduced to a Kaimakamlik; the actual holder is Shaku Bey, formerly a tom-tom player. He was promoted by Rashid Pasha, chiefly because he is on bad terms with his distinguished brother, Kamil Pasha.

Sur (Tyre) is under Nazib Bey, also a Kurd, and appointed by Rashid Pasha. This officer refuses to obey blindly; therefore he was transferred from Baalbek; and it is most probable that presently he will be recalled.

The Mutasarrifik of St. John d'Acre is under Rushdi Effendi, formerly Defterdar (first comptable) of the vilayet. He was removed, it is said, from Damascus on account of his irregular practices, and, after a year, he was transferred to this important place.

Haifa (Caiffa) is under Ashraf Bey, son of Visa Pasha, a young man whose bad conduct to the Protestant missionaries and others at Kasheyya caused him to be removed to another and a better post.

Kasheyya, a turbulent place, with a large mixed population of Druses, Greeks, Moslems, and a few Protestant converts, has, for Kaimakam, Ashraf Effendi, who married a daughter of one of the Governor-General's concubines. His bad conduct caused him to be dismissed from Nursallakah.

Hasbeyya, also in the slopes of Hermon, and the most important settlement in the celebrated Wady Taim, inhabited by Druses, Moslems, Greeks, and Protestants, is under the Kaimakam Kurshid Agha, a well-meaning man, but incapable of independent action, and wholly under the influence of Rashid Pasha.

Safed, where there is a large colony of Jews under British protection, is governed by the Kaimakam Abdel Kadir Bey Azouch Zadeh, a man of good family, but almost incapacitated for business by his habits of intoxication.

Tiberias is also inhabited by Jews, many of them under British protection, Moslems, and Christians. In a despatch of July 6, 1871, No. 47, I have remonstrated with the Governor-General for permitting the Greek Bishop of Nazareth, M. Niffon, to [illegible] a cemetery belonging to the Jews during the last four centuries. [illegible] the Kaimakam, he was lately promoted by Rashid Pasha from Baysan (Scythopolis), in the Ghor, or Jordan Valley.

Nazareth, where we have a mission and a school, is governed by Khurshid Agha, formerly pipe-bearer to Rashid Pasha. The state of this town is described by me in my despatch of June 7, 1871,† and by the Rev. Mr. Zeller, a copy of whose letter I inclosed to your Excellency in my despatch of July 12, 1871.‡

The important district of the Belka, whose chef-lieu is Nablus, one of the most turbulent of Syrian towns, is under the well-known Kurdish Chief, Mohammed Said Pasha Samadin. This officer, who owes all his promotion to Rashid Pasha, is a man

* Inclosure 2 in No. 42. † Inclosure 1 in No. 25. ‡ Inclosure 1 in No. 45.

of great wealth and influence. His only daughter is married to Mohammed Bey-el Yusuf, Governor of the Hauran. He can command at least 10,000 sabres in the city of Damascus and its environs, and therefore he has been created a Pasha.

Another Kurd, who lately was a Bsalu-Buzouk, and who now commands the Hajj or Meccan Caravan, a very lucrative post, is Ahmed Agha Aizo, promoted to a Pashalik by Rashid Pasha. The Ottoman Government, knowing the perfidy and the violence of its Kurdish subjects, has hitherto made a rule of not raising them to high distinction. Rashid Pasha has departed from this wise precedent, and the public voice declares that he does so because he looks forward to benefit by their unscrupulous partizanship.

The emoluments attached to the Hajj were transferred, in 1869, from Shaat Findi el Faiz, of the Beni Saka, to Mohammed Dutchi, Sheikh of the great Anizah clan, Wuld Ali. The latter is a man of the worst character, to the rapacity and other vices of the Bedawi, he adds the craft and the *savoir faire* of the citizen. His chief merit is his readiness to commit any crime, he can also bring into the field some 3,000 lances of his own; and, if time be allowed him to intrigue amongst the Anizeh, he would probably swell the number to 30,000.

In order to invest his adherents with greater prestige, Rashid Pasha has, it is said, proposed and succeeded in raising all the Mutasarrifs to the rank of Pasha. This move is wholly in his own favour, and, in case of a rise in Syria, his influence would be paramount.

I can supply, if it be deemed necessary, a list of the Great Tribunals of Appeal that sit at Damascus. It will show that amongst them there is not one member who pretends to moderate independence. At present, indeed, these Majnoss may be said not to exist. A message from Rashid Pasha to the President, conveyed by Sabgat Effendi, is of more avail than a Firman of the Sublime Porte, and justice is paralyzed throughout the town.

The Syrian police is wholly in the hands of the Mir Alai Mustafa Bey, an officer whose exceeding bigotry prevents his being decently civil to any Christian. His second in command, Ismail Agha, an active and intelligent officer, lately died under highly suspicious circumstances. The British Consulate at Damascus is bounded on the west by a house of dubious fame, belonging to a Turkish woman, who is intimate with [illegible]ior-General's harem, and the latter, to the great scandal of the city, returned her visits. Ismail Agha detected this person in a shameless intrigue. He was dismissed with disgrace, and he presently died. His place has been taken by Simbashi Abdullah Agha, who emulates the flunkeyism of his Chief. The Yuzbashi Serur Agha, a very useful officer, remains unemployed. He is hated by Mustafa Bey because in 1860 he saved a Christian boy from being made a slave in his Colonel's house, and because he is looked upon as a friend to the British Consulate. The police arrangements are deplorable throughout the Province, and the Government pay for thirty where, perhaps, ten men are employed. The people complain that crime has never been so general, and, under the circumstances, we cannot be surprised.

This state of things in Syria results directly from the Consuls-General residing at Beyrout, and not at Damascus, the head-quarters of the Vilayet. Instead of exercising due supervision over political matters they are relegated from the centre to the edge of the Province. The Consuls-General are unable to obtain anything like correct information, and some, indeed, have never visited Damascus. Thus they are entirely dependent upon their dragomans, and they never see Rashid Pasha, except when he visits the harbour town for recreation. Of course, the Ottoman authorities highly approve of an arrangement which reduces European influence and legitimate Consular interference to the lowest expression.

A report has lately been spread that the Vilayet of Syria will be divided into three. The northernmost will consist of the present Mutasarrifik of Zor on the Euphrates, to which will be added the rich and fertile districts about Jaules and Hannah. The central will be the heart of the present Province, and the southern will be represented by the harbour town from Sebra (Sur) to Gaza (Ghazzah) with Jerusalem for head-quarters. This project is highly to be commended for many reasons, especially because it tends to preserve the unity of the Ottoman Empire. It renders concerted action in favour of Russia impossible, and it will prevent Syria from acting as a strong and united power with Egypt, should the latter have the temerity to strike a blow for independence.

There are two main reasons which compel Russia to take a vital interest in this corner of Asia. The first is the pilgrimage to the Holy City, which, through the Greek Church, moves the world from Finland to Abyssinia. The second is the

unwillingness of the Great Northern Empire to see Syria become the highway of British India.

Such, your Excellency, is the present condition of Syria, which, situated as it is in proximity to Egypt, and united with the latter by political sympathies and by ancient interests, ought never to have been subjected to the dangerous and unscrupulous autocracy of Rasud Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON

No. [illegible]

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(Received August 9.)

No. 11.)
My Lord, *Damascus, July 17, 1871.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copies of despatches which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 50

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 24.)
Sir, *Damascus, July 15, 1871.*

I HAVE the honour to lay the following circumstances before your Excellency, hoping to be favoured with your orders as to the course of action which Her Majesty's Government would wish me to pursue in a matter which is evidently of the greatest gravity.

The mal-administration of Syria during the last five years, especially the last two of Rashid Pasha's Government, is causing a revival of Christianity: hence the Moslem is the only suspect of the Porte who has no defender unless his purse be well lined. The so-called "Greek" Christians are backed, especially at the present time, by Russian influence and gold. The Latins receive support from their ecclesiastics and from the Catholic Consulates; until the late war they were strenuously aided by France. The Protestants and the Druses look to England for that help and sympathy which her policy has wisely extended to them. The Jews either obtain the protection of foreign passports, or they rely upon the influence of their co-religionists throughout the civilized world. But the Moslem Rayyah cannot look to any of these sources for a [illegible] plundered, crushed, starved, and driven to despair by taxes and imposts, and by the exactions of rapacious Government officials, who are ever being changed, and who are [illegible] Christian sects, such as immunity from conscription, and facilities of obtaining the justice which he cannot expect. El Islam will not help him—Christianity will.

As long as the present mal-administration keeps the people starving and discontented, so long will this movement, now that it has made a start, continue to gain influence; and, if freedom be allowed to it, it is hard to foresee where it may end. I am at present unprepared to supply a full and exhaustive Report upon the subject. Much of my information, though to all appearance reliable, must be verified by me in person before I can vouch for its truth; yet I have thought it my duty to lay before your Excellency this outline of a revival which is working under the surface of society, and of the causes which have brought it about, in order that no time may be lost in preparing for its development.

The revival dates from 1859, when a private soldier, then named Ahmed-es-Sabar, and now Issa, became a Christian, and when—notwithstanding the proclamation of religious liberty to converts by the Hatt-i-sherif of Gul-khanah, and the confirmation by the Firman of February 12, 1856—he was imprisoned and loaded with chains. According to his own account, he saw visions of the Saviour, and he was favoured with various revelations; his fetters fell off, and his jailors did not attempt to replace them. When released, he was joined by twenty to thirty Moslems of the Shadh. Order of Dervishes. Of these men, twelve were arrested, and summarily deported, without formal trial, to Tripoli and Murzuk, whilst their wives and children [illegible]

numbering sixty-two, and now fifty-three, were left to starve in Damascus. As usual persecution increased the number of converts, who, though secretly baptised, have succeeded in concealing their change of faith. Now, however, the disappearance of Said el Hamawi; the case of Haj Hasan; the hanging of Arif Effendi (the neophyte El Istiphos); and the report that the son of a Kadi (Judge), whose name I have not yet discovered, has been put to death at Damascus, would seem to show that the Government, which is here the Government [illegible] has become aware of the movement, and is trying to nip it in the bud. It is too far advanced, by this time, for such treatment. I have spoken to some of the principal converts in the city of Damascus, and they declare that at the end of 1869 the [illegible] who had turned from El Islam was [illegible] in 1870 there [illegible] presented [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] progressing [illegible] personal notice [illegible] Druses [illegible] slope of Mount Lebanon, having, through the non-[illegible] the Government, been despoiled of their houses, the [illegible] of all their property, came to this capital, and sent me word that they were prepared to become Protestants.

It is plain that the present is no common matter of conversion. If steps be not taken by the Governments of Europe to prevent the Treaty and the Firman becoming dead letters, religious persecution will become rampant; and the [illegible] one step too far by the Turkish authorities, will undoubtedly [illegible] fearful scenes of 1860.

Regarding this revival of Christianity in the gravest light, I am the more anxious to be favoured with your Excellency's directions as to my future proceedings.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 49

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 25.)
Sir, *Damascus, July 14, 1871.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that on the 5th instant, a letter from the heads of the Jewish Community at Tiberias was put into my hands. This document renewed a complaint previously made, namely, that the Governor-General of Syria had sold to M. Nullon, Greek Bishop of Nazareth, a synagogue and a cemetery belonging to the Jews of Tiberias. Many of these persons are protected British subjects, [illegible] produced the testimony of eight Moslem witnesses to prove that the [illegible] synagogue has been [illegible] their hands during the last 400 years.

[illegible] 1871 I protested strongly against this sale to the local authorities, [illegible] the letter from the Jews I at once [illegible] brought the [illegible] to the notice of the Governor-General, Rashid Pasha, and a private [illegible] July 13) informed me in reply that the "Authorities were occupying [illegible] question." I need hardly add that the Authorities are himself.

It will now become evident to your Excellency why the Greeks of Nazareth are so hostile to me; why the Greek Bishop so strongly opposed justice, even writing to suborn and to pay four Moslem witnesses, and why he was energetically supported by the Governor-General. The ground has been taken from the Jews for the purpose of building a Greco-Russian convent and hospice, and thus that sect will add another [illegible] to its actual possessions, the oak of Abraham near Hebron, Mount Tabor, and Jacob's Well near Nablous (Shechem). I venture to hope that your [illegible] [illegible]

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 49

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot.

No. 26.)
Sir, *Damascus, July 17, 1871.*

I HAVE the honour to bring the following circumstances to your Excellency's notice

M. Hanna Azar, Dragoman of this Consulate, having reported to me (July 12) that certain friendly villagers had warned him that his life was threatened by a tribe of [illegible] the Governor-General, applying for the personal protection of M. Azar, who is proprietor of two villages in the Merj district, near Damascus, and who is obliged periodically to visit them on business. Up to this date no answer has been returned.

M. Azar's village "Suwaydah" was lately p[illegible] in the list of British claims appended to my despatch [illegible] b, and c[illegible] Consulate. [illegible] in presence of Mr. Acting Consul Charles Wood, produced a document signed by Rashid Pasha, when the latter had denied having signed it since that time Rashid Pasha has never lost the least opportunity of injuring M. Azar, and of applying directly to me for his removal from the Consulate. I always replied that some offence must be brought home to a Consular Dragoman before he can be dismissed, and as the Governor-General only insisted the more, it presently became evident to me that he was [illegible] whether I was less likely to be patient than others. [illegible] M. Azar's services became more [illegible] At last I absolutely refused to [illegible] been dismissed from [illegible] late would have acquired that reputation for subservi[illegible]cy which Rashid Pasha desired to affix to it.

The Government of Damascus is answerable for every action of the Shiyas plunders. The latter have, since many months, given hostages, and are held to be submitted; no outrage like that to which I have above alluded can, therefore, be committed without the connivance of the authorities.

The last report at Damascus is, that the Governor-General has ordered the purchase of 500 mules, and that 200 are already collected. This step shows that a hostile movement is in contemplation, but I cannot yet determine whether the Druses or the Arab tribes of the Druse Mountain, whose raids have become insufferable, be the object proposed. The silence of his Excellency, and his delay in replying to my letter about M. Azar, perhaps suggests the latter. I shall not fail to supply your Excellency with all the information which I can gather.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON

No. 50

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(Received August 9.)

(Separate.)
My Lord, *Damascus, July 21, 1871*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a testimonial lately presented to me at Damascus.

Your Lordship will have received my statements concerning the religious revival in Syria, and you will have appreciated the extreme gravity of the situation.

Should I be compelled to quit Damascus before the proposed visit of the Papal Nuncio and of the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, the effect may be fatal to the cause of the converts, and may lead to disturbances whose length can hardly be estimated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON

Inclosure in No. 50.

The Rev. E. B. Frankel and others to Consul Burton.

Sir, *Damascus, July 12, 1871.*

WE beg to tender to you our heartiest thanks for your prompt decisive action in the case of Hassan, the converted Moslem, and also to congratulate you on the result of your determination and firmness.

* Inclosure 3 in No. 43.

For some time we had heard that a Moslem convert to Protestantism, at Beyrout, had been subjected to considerable persecution. A convert, more obscure than himself, had been put out of the way, and had not been heard of, and Hassan had been subjected to a series of arrests and imprisonments, and had several times narrowly escaped assassination. The Chief Consulates had, however, become publicly interested in him so that his safety from legal execution seem ensured; and as he was always accompanied by some one to protect him from assassins he seemed for the time to be safe.

But on the 29th June we were surprised to find that he was being transported to Damascus, having been arrested and bound in chains.

The English colony at Beyrout became alarmed, as they declared that none so transported ever returned again. Two agents of the missions were despatched from Beyrout, one preceding the prisoner, to give us information as to what has taken place, and the other accompanying the prisoner to watch what became of him.

On receiving intelligence of the convert's transportation to this city, the missionaries of the three missions at Damascus resolved to lay the case before you, but on [illegible] so found that you had, with your usual energy, already taken up the case and [illegible] demanded the release of the prisoner. And though the authorities ignored the Firman granting civil and religious liberty to the people of the Empire, and denied your rights to interfere on behalf of the prisoner, the unflinching stand [illegible] took by the concessions of the hatti-sherif, secured the release of the prisoner.

You have thus vindicated the cause of humanity, for on the day on which the prisoner escaped, through your intervention, the Moslem authorities strangled, in the Great Mosque, in Damascus, a Moslem convert to Christianity. The man had made application to the Irish-American Mission for protection, and declared that he lived in daily fear of strangulation. He was imprisoned in the Grand Mosque, and strangled, as they say, by John the Baptist, and then carried away by one man and thrown into a hole, like a dog. This act proves that your uncompromising firmness with the authorities was an act of force merely, and that the worst apprehensions of the Beyrout missionaries were not unfounded.

But, more important still, you have asserted the binding character of the spiritual privileges of the Christian subjects of the Porte, contained in the Firman of 1850, and which, according to Fuad Pasha's letter to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe "comprises absolutely all proselytes."

We are sure, sir, that your conduct in this affair will receive the unqualified approbation of the best public opinion in Christendom, and we have no doubt it will receive, as it merits, the warm approval of your own Government.

We, who were near and anxious spectators of the proceedings in this affair, cannot too warmly express our sense of the satisfaction with which we witnessed the fearless, firm, and efficient manner in which you conducted the important case until the convert was permitted to leave this city.

(Signed) E. B. FRANKEL, *Missionary of the London Missionary Society.*
JAMES ORR SCOTT, M.A., *Missionary of the Irish Presbyterian Church.*
FANNY JAMES, *Lady Superintendent of the British Syrian Schools, Damascus.*
WILLIAM WRIGHT, A.B., *Missionary of the Irish Presbyterian Church at Damascus.*
JOHN CRAWFORD, *Missionary of the United Presbyterian Church of North America at Damascus.*

No. 51.

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(Received August 9.)

(Separate.)
My Lord, *Damascus, July 21, 1871*

ON Saturday, July 8, I had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch No. 1, of June 14, 1871, containing these words:

"I am to add that his Lordship wishes that from the time of receipt of this despatch until further instructions reach you, you should not quit the seat of your Consulate, the city of Damascus."

At the time of reading this despatch my family and myself were suffering from the excessive heat, and from the unusually sickly season of Damascus. The Greeks of

Nazareth had been suffered to return home, in order that their *procès-verbal* might be revised and terminated. The Consular corps and the Presbyterian missionaries had been gone for some time. Convinced that I had done nothing to incur your Lordship's displeasure, and feeling certain that when the truth came before you, you would not expect me to consider myself under a kind of arrest at my Consulate in the hot and fetid air of a Damascus July, I telegraphed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, requesting permission to proceed to my summer quarters. I should here explain that the British Consuls in this country have, since the establishment of the Consulates, kept two houses, one in the city and the other within easy ride of four or five hours; and that messengers constantly ply between the two.

After waiting two days in vain for an answer from Constantinople, I was compelled on the 10th instant, with the view of avoiding serious illness, to comply with the advice of a medical man, and to transfer myself to summer-quarters at Beledan. A copy of his certificate shall, if it be judged necessary, at once be forwarded to your Lordship. I trust that this step will not be viewed in any other light but as an act of necessity, and that the explanations forwarded to your Lordship will explain the surprise and the mortification experienced by me when I found that the transparent machinations of the Governor-General of Syria had been successful.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON

No. 52.

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(Received August 9.)

No. 28.

My Lord, *Damascus, July 21, 1871.*

I HAVE been informed that great exception has been taken to my not having reported at once to your Lordship the assault upon my servants at Nazareth, and that this omission has been looked upon as an omission of duty. I have, therefore, the honour to lay this statement before you.

Nazareth is not connected by telegraph with the rest of the Province, and even had it been, the state of the telegraph-office is such that my telegram must have come before the Governor-General, who would, probably, have tampered with it. The Post-office is in the same condition, except that letters are not tampered with, but destroyed. I was not, at the time, aware of the extent of Rashid Pasha's animus against me; and looking upon the assault as a village disturbance, I thought that it would easily be settled by the punishment of the offenders at Damascus. And around me were [illegible] imagined that the affair would be used as a manœuvre to satisfy [illegible] but also the unworthy intrigues of Rashid Pasha, such as [illegible] after my arrival, a telegram to Constantinople, endorsing every [illegible] will completely triumph. I need hardly say that the E[illegible] out Syria even more than I shall myself.

I am also informed that my expedition to the Hauran was not desired to take place. I again venture to solicit your Lordship's attention to the fact that this journey had been proposed at least a year and a-half ago by Mr. Consul-General Eldridge and myself. Moreover, that before setting out I spoke of it when visiting Rashid Pasha, who did not offer the least objection. His report to Constantinople was the most transparent effort to rid himself of a man who has opposed his unjust and rapacious measures, and the secret of his hostility will be found in the 6,000,000 piastres which I claim from him in liquidation of British creditors.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON

No. 53

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(Received August 9.)

Separate

My Lord, *Damascus, July 24, 1871.*

HAVING learned, through private channels, that it is in contemplation to reduce Her Majesty's Consulate at Damascus,—in fact, to make it a second class appointment,—I am induced to submit the following lines to your superior judgment.

The capital of Syria, owing to increased wealth, to the influx of population, and to the establishment of majlises, which make it their head-quarters, has doubled its prices in the last fifteen years. House-rent is now 60*l.* to 80*l.* per annum, and it must soon rise to 100*l.* A Consular Dragoman will, in the present day, spend some 300 to 350 napoleons a-year, where his father lived as well upon 120.

An underpaid Consul, who cannot afford from his private means an outlay equal to [illegible] income, will now occupy a false position at the residence of the Governor-General, of the Grand Courts of Appeal, and of the other high officials. And this is precisely what is desired by that Ottoman party which hates European influence because it is an obstacle to their freedom of mal-administration. Its one great object is to keep the Consulates-General relegated to the port of Beyrout and on the edge, as opposed to the centre, of the Vilayet, to a place of minimum political importance never visited by the Governor-General, except when making holiday.

With the second-class Consulate transferred to Beyrout—a harbour town compara[illegible] would be removed from the many temptations that would beset his path at Damascus. The transfer of the Consulates-General and the Vice-Consulate to the capital is a step which, as every resident in Syria well knows, has long been called for by European interests. It will, perhaps, be distasteful to the Consuls-General, who find Beyrout a [illegible] dwelling-place in the immediate neighbourhood of the sea, and of the [illegible] functionaries—of course I do not include my imme[illegible] Consuls, subject to themselves. Thus they have prepared a measure at once most agreeable to the local authorities, whose jealousy of European influence is ever on the increase, and fatal to the beneficial influence which Europe ought to exercise upon Syria.

A dozen years ago the Consuls-General might plead that at Damascus they would be separated by two days of rough riding from the seaboard, and consequently from free and regular communication with the Home authorities. Now all is changed. There is a telegram office which sends messages in European languages; there is a post-office which will presently learn to forward correspondence unviolated, and there is a day-coach throughout the year, with a night omnibus in the hot season. No plausible reason at present exists for the Consul-General to reside at Beyrout, except his personal convenience, and no public servant will allow any weight to such a consideration. Many of the Consuls-General may feel inclined to urge objections against being transferred to Damascus, but should the Representative of Great Britain be directed to make the capital his head-quarters, all will be compelled at once to do the same, under pain of injuring the interests of their Governments.

In the days when the French road did not exist, a cause for placing the Consuls-General at Beyrout was found in the fact that they were also accredited to the Governor of the Lebanon, as well as to the Governor-General of Syria. But the former functionary now transacts business not at Beyrout, which belongs to Damascus, but at Baalbek during the winter, and in the summer at Dhreddin, a place far less accessible from Beyrout than Damascus is. A second-class Consulate could do all that is wanted with the Governor of the Lebanon, which is a Mutsarrifik (Department), not a vilayet (province). Finally, the distances are so inconsiderable that the Consul-Generals could at all times reach Baalbek in twelve hours and Dhreddin in twenty-four hours from Damascus.

The present, I venture to submit, is the moment when Syria claims increased attention from England. The Euphrates Valley Railroad, after having been discussed since 1845, has now come before a Committee of the House of Commons. It will be opposed by the Government of Syria secretly, but with all its strength; and the opposition of the local authorities will be supported by the Sublime Porte and by Russia. These two Powers are the last to desire an English highway from the Levant to the Euphrates. And without the most energetic action on our part they will inevitably be successful.

The first step [illegible] clear the way for a Euphrates Valley Railroad [illegible]

increase our Consular establishment in Syria and Palestine, a step which has already been taken by France, Russia, Austria, and even Persia. They have placed Representatives at all the most important points, a secure method of extending legitimate European influence, by bringing to light and checking the malpractices, the peculation, and the abuse of justice which eat into the prosperity of the province. The measure is [illegible] popular with the Consuls-General and Consuls, because it always adds to their correspondence, and it occasionally causes trouble with the local authorities. Such considerations need hardly be noticed.

I have the honour respectfully to submit the following plan for extending our Consular jurisdiction throughout Syria and Palestine; and I would invite your Lordship's attention to the fact that it will not require an increase of expenditure.

The Consular corps of Great Britain is at present represented by a Consul-General at Beyrout; by Consuls at Damascus and Jerusalem, by unpaid Vice-Consuls at Latakia, Tripoli, Sidon, and Jaffa; and by Consular Agents at the port of Tripoli, and [illegible]

[illegible] Vice-Consulates and the Consular Agencies might be left *in statu quo* until [illegible] Dragomans—a step which might at once be taken to advantage—chosen from the wealthiest and the most influential natives, and Protestants, who in many towns are rising to distinction, should be especially preferred. There is nothing derogatory in the title of Consular Dragoman, which the French Foreign Office confers upon some of its most respectable employés.

The solid gain of the change would be, that whereas in choosing a Vice-Consul or a Consular Agent we are now compelled by Treaty to take a non-subject of the Porte, and thus are often unable, as at the important centres of Hums and Hamah, to find suitable persons who are not already employed by other nations, we can bestow [illegible]

The only objection which might be offered is, that the number of Dragomans attached to the Consulate-General, the two Consulates, the four Vice-Consulates, and the two Consular Agencies, is limited by the Regnations to [illegible] Those, however, form a total of [illegible] and five not as never filled up. The Consul-General, for instance, employs [illegible] the Consul of Jerusalem, one. Moreover, this is a minor matter which can easily be settled. The Russian Consul (General at Damascus is allowed an unlimited number.

The Consular Dragomans should be permitted to fly their flags without expecting a salute, which at the inland ports cannot be returned, and they should be restricted to an establishment consisting of one interpreter (*janissaragoman* or *élève dragoman*), and two kawwas or janissaries. They should communicate through their Consuls with the Consul-General, and the latter should visit them in person, or, if unable himself to make the tour of inspection, by deputy, at least once every two years. This is a precaution of such importance that Her Majesty's Foreign Office would be justified in defraying the actual travelling expenses of the Consul-General.

The places where Consular Dragomans are required are:—

1. Hums.
2. Hamah.
3. Baalbek and the northern Bukaa (Cœlesyria).
4. Zahleh. Here there is a Protestant School (on the eastern slope of the Lebanon and the southern Bukaa).
5. Safet, which has a large colony of Jews under British protection.
6. Tiberias, also with a Jewish Colony.
7. Nazareth, where there is a Protestant Mission and a School that urgently want protection, this being a turbulent town.
8. Nablus, also the seat of a Protestant School, and, like Nazareth, a turbulent place.
9. Tyre, a port again rising to distinction.
10. Salt, the chief town of the Balka, where an English clergyman is actually residing.

Hums and Hamah might, if judged proper, be placed under a single Consular Dragoman. It will, however, be far better to station an official at each of these great centres, in view of the immense changes which will be introduced to their vicinity by the newly-established Vilayet of Zor, by the settlement of Bedawi, and by the Circassian colonization.

[illegible] years [illegible] Lie Consul of 1871. The Province will, by this measure, be prepared for an event that

shall give her new life, the laying down of the Euphrates Valley Railroad. Thus, too, we shall counterbalance the present preponderating influence of Russia, whose progress through the Greek Church is rapid and sure, and we shall give to Protestant [illegible] support which in Syria and Palestine it so much needs.

That the local Government, as now constituted, will offer the sturdiest opposition to [illegible] upon the soundest footing, my own personal knowledge of its policy does not permit me to doubt. But the opposition will be factious and destitute of reasonable cause; it must therefore succumb to the first serious effort on the part of Her Majesty's Government. My acquaintance with the province, derived not by hearsay but from travel and actual inspection, will enable me to submit—if required to do so—a list of persons best suited for the post of Consular Dragomans, and however your Lordship may see fit to dispose of me, I wish nothing more than to see carried out the measures which I have ventured to propose for the welfare of Syria.

I have [illegible]

[illegible] RICHARD F. BURTON.

No. 54.

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot.—(Received at the Foreign Office, August 9.)

No. 10.)

Sir, *Damascus, June 18, 1871.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch No. 4 of June 6, 1871,* and to reply to it paragraph by paragraph.

I deeply regret that my Report of the assault at Nazareth was not sent to you before; the delay, as has been explained, arose from the dangers of the Turkish post, [illegible] in a complete form.

[illegible] ing a personal visit, with a written apology, from the Bishop. [illegible] He began with an attempt to suborn [illegible] Modern witnesses, unhappily [illegible] n Nazareth at the time when he proposed that they should perjure themselves—a copy of his letter from St. Jean d'Acre [illegible] rwarded to me. At D[illegible]us he has openly admitted the untruth of his [illegible] to make them by his flock, who [illegible] would carry them through the affair harmless. He has [illegible] nal violence and his fear that his followers would [illegible] Post.

Since the date of my last despatch, however, the Bishop of Nazareth has been encouraged at the Serai to withdraw all offers of conciliation, and I have been compelled to urge a trial upon the local authorities. Your Excellency may be pleased to [illegible] Damascus; and I have reason to think that the same is the case with his [illegible] Greek Patriarch of Jerusalem. The latter is said to have written me a friendly letter, but the document has not been suffered to reach me.

The youth Habil Jemayel, aged 22½, seeing Mr. Tyrwhitt Drake likely to be severely injured by a stone, fired a shot high over the assailant's head, and did good service by [illegible] gentleman from receiving a dangerous wound. I then took the revolver [illegible], and as three stones had struck me, though partially sheltered by a tree, I [illegible] in the air. Many men, it may be asserted, when exposed to be brained by a [illegible] ish, would have shot the aggressor. Not one of our assailants, however, was wounded, even by a stone. And had not the pistol been at hand, one or both of us might have been killed; so reckless and infuriated was the mob urged on by their priests and elders.

The same lad, Habil Jem[illegible], in October, 1870, seeing his mistress threatened by a similar mob at the Zebdani village, and in dread of their violence, was drawing a pistol, when five or six [illegible] seized his arms, and the pistol went off in the struggle without [illegible]

[illegible] riot were severely punished by the authorities, and not one complained against the [illegible]ch. I pay more than usual attention in this part of the world to the bearing of my followers, and lately I dismissed one of them for speaking roughly to a priest. It may be mentioned that one of the men most severely beaten at Nazareth was my cook, a Greek rayah, and that since my return to Damascus, he has been tampered with and begged to give false witness.

* Inclosure 1 in No. 33.

When the rioters were arrested, confronted with my people, recognized, and duly committed for trial, I dispatched a special messenger to Rushdi Effendi, Governor of St. Jean d'Acre, requesting that at least two of the ringleaders might be sent in irons to Damascus. I offered to telegraph to his Excellency the Governor-General, but Rushdi Effendi did so himself, and the men were forwarded accordingly. At the time two of my men were lying severely wounded, one of them spitting blood, as [illegible] proved by the medical certificate of Dr. Vartan, Nazareth Mission. A third, the Hajjee Mohammed, an Affghan and an English subject, who served in India and in the Crimea, sustained a severe injury, and since that time his life has been despaired of.

The other ten prisoners were marched down in coils to St. Jean d'Acre, where, I am informed, the richest of them were at once allowed to go almost free. Two of those [illegible] man, remains at St. Jean d'Acre, whilst Yusuf Shalhuph escaped from Nazareth. This was reported by me (20th May) to his Excellency the Governor-General of Syria, but no reply has hitherto been received. The fact is [illegible] a village riot into a question of religion and politics.

The success of his projects can hardly be brought about except by siding with the so-called Greek Rayahs, whom he hates, and he would the more willingly place me in a false position, as the field would thus be cleared of one obstacle. This assertion I believe, embodies the general opinion throughout Syria.

Your Excellency will have received the depositions of Englishmen, who all testify to the fact of my having shown, under somewhat trying circumstances, coolness and moderation.

During the four years which I passed in the Brazil, the Argentine Republic, Chile, Peru, and Paraguay, often traversing through the wildest parts of more than lawless regions, I cannot call to mind having had a single disp[illegible]. In Syria, however, party feeling carries everything before it. The mere fact of my having prevented Monsignor Nufou, Bishop of Nazareth, from seizing ground which belongs to the Jews of Tiberias, under the protection of Great Britain, was enough to place me in complete antagonism with him, and, through him, with his turbulent and fanatical "flock."

I may conclude with asserting that, during my twenty months' residence at Damascus, I have laboured incessantly [illegible] regard [illegible] Wa[illegible] look [illegible].

Travellers who have lately passed through Nazareth (Miss Fullerton and Mr. Cunninghame Graham) can answer for the respect with which they are now treated. I hold documents from nearly every race or creed in Syria, and, amongst others, from the Greek and Latin Patriarchs of Damascus, showing that they consider me their friend, and look forward to my assistance in case of disturbances. The Jewish protégés of Damascus who, last year, forwarded complaints against me to Her Majesty's Foreign Office, are proposing to draw up an apology in writing, and to own that they were wholly in the wrong. The Jews of Safet and Tiberias have applied, I am told, to the home authorities, with a view of [illegible]. I am equally on good terms with the Druses, the Metawili, the Nussayrii, and other sections of the Moslem community. Those only wish me ill who are jealous of me, restrained, by my knowledge of the country and Eastern character, and by my insight [illegible] and corrupt measures which are now, especially under the present Administration, the curse of the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

No. 55.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 85. Commercial.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 11, 1871*

YOUR Excellency will have received from Captain Burton a copy of his despatch to me No. 8 of the 11th ultimo,* and I have now to request that you will furnish me with such observations as you may have to offer on the statements contained in that despatch with regard to the misunderstanding between him and the Governor-General

* No. 48.

of Syria, and the merits of the case as regards the late occurrences, with reference to which complaint has been made against Captain Burton.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 56.

Mr. Odo Russell to Consul Burton.

No. 1,
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 12, 1871*

IN case this despatch should reach Syria before your departure from that country, I am directed by Earl Granville, in acknowledging the receipt of your despatches to the 5th ultimo, to state to you that these papers do not induce his Lordship to alter the decision conveyed to you in his despatch No. 3 of the 22nd ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 57.

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(Received August .)

(Separate.)
My Lord, *Damascus (City), July 26, 1871.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Odo Russell's despatch No. 2 of June 23, calling upon me immediately to explain why I had not reported to your Lordship the assault made upon myself and my people at Nazareth.

Having already furnished the explanation in my despatch No. 28 of July 21,* I have only to regret that any delay was suffered to occur, as such delay might be [illegible] I was [illegible] office that supervision which was desirable, and thus the copy [illegible] despatch of June 18, addressed to Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople, was not forwarded to your Lordship till July 25.

I have already explained to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople the cause of the delay in reporting the assault to him; and I have the honour once more to assure your Lordship that the affair would have presented no grave aspect had not the bad will of the Governor-General, Rashid Pacha, converted a village riot into a political and racial dispute. Such things have happened to almost every traveller who has seen much of Syria, from the Rev. Mr. Porter to the Rev. Dr. Tristram, and will [illegible] and duly recorded in their books. Usually the authorities have no difficulty in punishing the rioters.

It has reached me through a private source that the Governor-General has found fault with my conduct generally for encroaching upon the domain of the local authorities, and for assuming a position inimical to their interests, by making myself their rival. This I emphatically deny. Such a proceeding would be, on my part, an error of judgment of which I am incapable.

The Governor-General is bound to show categorically where, when, and how I have in any way exceeded the bounds of legitimate Consular [illegible] interference in Turkey. He cannot do. I have, it is true, opposed his unceasing efforts to annihilate the [illegible] influence of this Consulate, as he has done that of all others at Damascus. I have advocated the rights [illegible] which he has withheld from British protected subjects, I have extended the usual semi-official aid to the Druses whom he wishes to ruin, and I have taken, in the cause of religious toleration and missionary schools, a stand which has hitherto been productive of the best results against the Governor-General's open violation of Treaties. That such a line of conduct should be offensive to his Excellency Rashid Pasha I have no reason to doubt. But, convinced that I have in no way exceeded my powers as Her Majesty's Consul for Damascus I look forward, without fear, to the [illegible]

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

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* No. [illegible] * No. 51

No. 58.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received August 21.)

(No. 100. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August 6, 1871*

IN a separate despatch to your Lordship of the 21st ultimo Captain Burton states that he had telegraphed to me for permission to proceed to his summer quarters, near Damascus, and that after waiting ten days in vain for an answer he had been compelled to do so.

If Captain Burton had received instructions from your Lordship which made such a request necessary, it was his duty to inform me of it at the same time that he asked for permission to leave Damascus; but he himself made no application to me on the subject.

The only telegram I received was the one herewith inclosed in copy from Mrs. Burton, to which I did not at once reply; for although I was not aware of your Lordship having prohibited Captain Burton from leaving Damascus, I was convinced that there was something which had been kept back from me; and I felt, moreover, some hesitation in returning any answer to a request which, if made at all, should have come direct from the Consul.

However, I finally returned the answer herewith inclosed, which I confined to a general statement of there being nothing in the regulations to prevent a Consul from living in summer at a short distance from his usual residence without special leave.

I have, &c,

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT

Inclosure 1 in No. 58.

Mrs. Burton to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Beyrout, July 10, 1871*

KINDLY [illegible] Consul [illegible] hours' ride from Damascus. All other Consuls gone long ago; the whole household ill from excessive heat.

Inclosure 2 in No. 58.

Sir H. Elliot to Mrs. Burton.

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 20, 187[illegible].*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 10th, there is nothing in the regulations of the service to prevent a Consul going a few hours' distance from his usual residence without special leave.

No. 59.

Consul-General Eldridge to Earl Granville.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 26.)

My Lord, *Beyrout, August 11, 1871.*

I HAVE [illegible] day addressed to Her Majesty's Embassy at the Sublime Porte, relative to the refusal of the Governor-General of Syria, to recognize any longer Mr. Hanna Azar, one of the Dragomans of Her Majesty's Consulate at Damascus.

I have, &c,

(Signed) S. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 59

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Aleih, Mount Lebanon, August 11, 1871.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a note which I have received from his Excellency the Governor-General of Syria, complaining of the conduct of Mr. Hanna Azar, one of the Dragomans of Her Majesty's Consulate at Damascus.

On several previous occasions the misconduct of Mr. Azar has been mentioned to me both by the Wali and others. I believe Mr. Wood, while Acting Consul, found it necessary to suspend him until the arrival of Captain Burton.

As the appointment of Dragomans to Consulates depends upon the incumbents of the posts themselves, I do not consider myself authorized to interfere in the matter further than referring it to your Excellency, and in this sense I have answered the note of Rashid Pasha.

I have furnished Captain Burton with a copy of the Governor-General's note, and have suggested to him, for the sake of preserving good relations with the local authorities, the expediency of suspending Mr. Azar from his functions at least until the charges brought against him have been investigated by Captain Burton.

I have, &c.

(Signed) S. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 59

Rashid Pasha to Consul-General Eldridge.

M. le Consul-Général, *Damas, le 9 Août, 1871.*

UNE des causes principales de la mésintelligence qui a éclaté entre M. Burton et moi, c'est sans contredit M. Hanna Azar, un des drogmans indigènes au service du Consulat de Sa Majesté Britannique à Damas.

Vers la fin de son séjour à Damas, M. Rogers, convaincu de la duplicité de Hanna Azar, avait fini par lui retirer sa confiance et ne le chargeant plus d'aucune affaire. M. Wood dans son bon sens comprit aussitôt que Hanna Azar était une pierre de scandale entre l'autorité et le Consulat, mais il ne voulut point servir contre cet employé infidèle, n'étant qu'intérimaire lui-même. M. Kennedy, informé lui-[illegible] mais l'importance des occupations de M. l'Inspecteur a fait qu'il n'a pas songé à s'occuper de cette affaire.

En fin j'ai eu plus d'une fois l'occasion de me plaindre à M. Burton de la conduite de Hanna Azar, lui faisant observer que cet employé ne croyant pouvoir mieux faire ses affaires que lorsque la discorde régnerait entre nous. J'ajoutermis en outre que Hanna Azar de tout temps par ses intrigues en ville, par les faux bruits qu'il répandait, il donna à entendre que la sécurité et la tranquilité publique étaient menacés. Il faisait partout entrevoir le peril que les Chrétiens courraient et le spectre de nouveaux malheurs. Rien ne fit. M. Burton garda quand même M. Azar; il lui défendit seulement de se présenter devant moi, et voici à quelle occasion.

L'année dernière, lorsqu'une rixe éclata sur le passage de Mme. Burton allant à l'Eglise de Zeidani, plusieurs individus furent arrêtés. Mme. Burton ayant elle-même reconnu l'innocence des détenus allait demander leur mise en liberté. Que fit Hanna Azar? Il s'empresse de demander de l'argent aux prisonniers, leur promettant la liberté. Ce que M. le Consul ayant su, au lieu de renvoyer un drogman dont la perversité morale était incontestable, il se contenta de lui défendre de se présenter devant moi.

En revanche Azar hante les tribunaux du matin au soir, se charge d'affaires suspectes étrangères au Consulat, fait de faux rapports au Consul, qu'il excite et qu'il irrite, maltraite les membres, leur en impose, s'abritant derrière l'impunité que lui assure son titre, pressure les habitants des tribus et des villages voisins de sa propriété, leur intente des procès sans fondement pour des devastations chimériques, leur réclame des sommes importantes à titre d'indemnité pour des dégats imaginaires, et finit même par les accuser de vouloir attenter à ses jours.

Azar par son ingérence continu auprès de l'autorité a fini par soulever contre lui [illegible] Mutessarifik. Jusqu'à ce jour je calmai les tribunaux du Mutessarifik, et j'ai conseillé patience à ceux du Vilayet. Cette patience aussi a été épuisée. Un cri unanime

s'élève contre cet homme qui brave nos lois et toutes les convenances. J'ai longtemps temporisé, je ne saurai plus prolonger ma longanimité, prévoyant qu'un incident fâcheux ne peut manquer de surgir, vu la position que j'occupe et la responsabilité qui incombe sur moi, j'ai été forcé de donner l'ordre à ce que Hanna Azar ne soit plus reçu comme drogman auprès de l'autorité.

Votre expérience des affaires acquise dans une série de longs travaux, l'esprit de justice et de droiture qui vous distingue, la connaissance que vous avez de ce qu'un drogman peut faire lorsqu'il est mauvais, vous feront approuver, j'en suis convaincu, la mesure extrême que la force des choses m'a forcé de prendre. L'autorité n'a aucune espèce de confiance en M. Hanna Azar, et quand bien même M. Burton viendrait à être remplacé, Hanna Azar est de nature à créer de nouveaux embarras au Consul, nouveau venu, et à l'autorité.

Vous désirez sans doute comme moi que la bonne entente règne entre le Consulat de Damas et le Vilayet. Elle est impossible tant que Hanna Azar subsistera comme drogman. C'est un obstacle à la paix et à la concorde. Ma conscience me dit que je devais le supprimer, et c'est ce que j'ai fait.

Le Consul de Damas a d'autres intreprètes; ses affaires ne souffriront pas, d'autant plus que Hanna Azar ne se charge point d'une affaire pour la mener à bonne fin, mais pour en envelopper le cours d'un réseau de difficultés, de malentendus, et de complications.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) RACHID.

No. 60

Consul-General Eldridge to Earl Granville.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 27.)
My Lord, *Aleih, Mount Lebanon, August 14, 1871.*

I HAD the honour to receive on the 12th instant Mr. Odo Russell's despatch No. 10 of the 24th ultimo, transmitting to me, under flying seal, a despatch addressed by your Lordship to Mr. Consul Burton, informing him that you consider it imperative that he should be relieved from the duties belonging to Her Majesty's Consulate at Damascus.

In pursuance of Mr. Odo Russell's instructions to me to appoint, without delay, some fit person to carry on the duties of the Consulate until some further arrangements shall have been come to, I have the honour to report that I have instructed Mr. Vice-Consul Jago to proceed to Damascus to take charge of Her Majesty's Consulate there as Acting Consul.

Mr. Jago will leave for Damascus either this evening or to-morrow, conveying your Lordship's despatch, which I have instructed him to deliver personally to Captain Burton.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

No. 61

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received September 1.)

(No. 109 Commercial.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 21, 1871.*

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's commercial despatch No. 65, directing me to make any observations that I might have to offer upon the statements contained in Captain Burton's despatch No. 8, of the 11th of July, in regard to the misunderstanding between him and the Governor-General of Syria.

Your Lordship is already aware, from my previous correspondence, that I never doubted there being great exaggeration in the account of Captain Burton's proceedings at Nazareth, but if he complains that an *ex parte* version of the affray had been received against him, it is to be remembered that he himself made no report whatever on the subject till I officially called upon him for it, the explanations of the delay subsequently given being altogether insufficient and contradictory.

While in a private letter, the reason of the affray not being reported to me, was

stated to be, "that the honest truth was, that village rows are common to every one here who goes out of his house, and no one takes any notice of them," it is described in Captain Burton's despatch to your Lordship No. 8 and in his other Reports as something much more serious than a mere "village row." Nevertheless, scarcely an hour before your Lordship's despatch, to which I am now replying, reached my hands I had been representing to Server Effendi the necessity of a searching investigation into the occurrence, to be followed by the punishment of any persons who had taken part in the assault upon Her Majesty's Consul.

I said that, as far as could be gathered from the testimony of Mr. Drake and others, the conduct of the Greeks had been outrageous, and the removal of Captain Burton from the Consulate of Damascus was not to be held as a reason for allowing those who had attacked him to escape.

Server Effendi promised me that he would desire that the case should be strictly inquired into, and that there should be no disposition to shield any person who had misconducted themselves.

Your Lordship will perceive from the language I had been holding [illegible] that it does not appear to me that the charge which had been made against Captain Burton in regard to the Nazareth affair has, up to the present time, been established, but that it is, on the contrary, due to him and to the post he then held that there should be an inquiry to ascertain whether he was not the victim of a wanton assault.

I have already, by my despatch to your Lordship No. 79 of the 26th June, conveyed my observations with respect to the complaints of the Porte of the general proceedings of Captain Burton, and I regret that it is not possible for me to state that I look upon those complaints as unfounded.

Captain Burton's antecedents made his position a delicate one, and rendered all discretion unusually imperative upon him, and in those qualities he has certainly shown himself eminently deficient.

His last visit to the Hauran, and his letter to the Chiefs, without communication with the Ottoman authorities, could not fail to excite the suspicions of a Governor-General with whom he was already on bad terms, or to give rise to misinterpretations from various quarters; and the assertion that the journey was undertaken with the [illegible] Beyrout is emphatically

[illegible] tion to pointing out the abuses in the [illegible] in which he considered to require remedying, he might have effected much good, but when he came to be regarded as a power to which the disaffected might look [illegible] ort, his position became a dangerous one.

Your Lordship will have been struck, in Captain Burton's correspondence, by the importance which he attaches to the maintenance of what he calls the British influence in Syria; but I would submit that it is not desirable to endeavour to maintain that influence by allowing our Consular Agents to adopt an attitude of rivalry towards the legitimate authorities who are responsible for the administration of the country.

I have endeavoured, as far as was practicable, to gather from independent sources [illegible] formed in Syria with regard to Captain Burton, and I cannot be blind to the unanimity with which he is blamed even by those who consider him to have been actuated by a generous wish to support those whom he looks upon as oppressed; but he may be held to be disqualified for the post of Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus without it being necessary to assume him to entertain all the hostile designs attributed to him by the Governor-General.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 62.

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(Received September 4.)

(Separate.)
My Lord, *Damascus, August 14, 1871.*

I HAVE the honour to forward the copy of a letter addressed to me by his Eminence the Greek Patriarch of Damascus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

Inclosure in No. 62

The Greek Patriarch at Damascus to Consul Burton.

(Traduction.)

M. le Consul, *Monasterie Balamand, le 26 Juillet*, 1871.

AVEC grand plaisir nous avons reçu votre chère missive du 24 Juillet, par laquelle nous apprenons que votre Seigneurie nous a adressé une précédente lettre nous parlant de l'affaire de Nazareth, laquelle lettre ne nous est pas malheureusement parvenu jusqu'à l'heure qu'il est, et nous ne savons pas où elle peut être perdue.

Nous nous empressons maintenant de répondre à votre estimée lettre que nous avons devant les yeux. Nous vous remercions, de tout le cœur, pour les sentiments de sincérité et de véritable affection que vous nous tenez vous priant de vous assurer que ces sentiments mêmes nous les avons pour votre honorable personne; conséquemment nous ne doutons pas qu'ils ne se changent point par les affaires de Nazareth, quel que soit leur fin. Tout du contraire nous nous assurons bien que votre Seigneurie, doué des principes de vérité et de la suhime justice qui sont des qualités des Anglais, nous tende main d'aide, si précieuse lorsque nos besoins la demandent de quoi. Nous vous adressons nos réinercienents en implorant au Seigneur ardemment pour la sante et la prospérité de votre Seigneurie in toute chose

Vous priant d'agréer, &c

(Signé) TROILE, *Patriarche d'Antioche.*

No. 63.

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(Received September 4.

Sir and

My Lord, *Damascus, August* 14, 1871

I HAVE the [illegible] espies of four despatches addressed to Her Majesty's Embassy, Constantinople, Nos. 29, 30, 31 and 32 of August 8 and 9, 1871

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 63.

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot

No. 29.)

Sir, *Damascus, August* 8, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to forward for your Excellency's information, the following Report, soliciting your attention to the gravity of the case contained in it.

Yesterday Ali Tabor, on the part of the Shaykh and the peasantry generally of the Bawarish village, brought me a petition, signed by four heads of families. The gist of the document is as follows

"Your servants, having a hearty desire to become Protestants, beg to be placed [illegible] of the Government taking severe measures against us. Now, however, we beg that you will take our case into consideration, and afford us that protection that your Government has never withheld from such petitions."

I have referred the particulars to the Rev. William Wright, of this city, and I have informed him that no further steps can be taken in the matter until your Excellency's decision shall be made known to me. Meanwhile I venture to assure your Excellency that the local authorities in Syria can always, if prepared to act with [illegible] If the head of the Executive be made personally answerable for all infractions of the Treaty, which grants liberty of conscience to every subject of the Porte, the bugbear of fanaticism will be laid for ever

The Moslems are fanatic, but they are also timid, and they dare not proceed to acts of violence without the sanction of the authorities, whilst the latter op[pose] conversion simply upon the material grounds that by it they lose so many subjects who are *taillable et corvéable à merci*.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 63.

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot

(No. 30.)

Sir, *Damascus, August* 8, 1871

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that, in consequence of cholera morbus being reported at Baghdad and Aleppo, the local Government has resolved to establish a *cordon sanitaire* to the east of this city.

On the evening of the 6th instant, Dr. Biagini, the Sanitary Officer, accompanied by 200 Nizam and some irregulars, set out for the Khan Kusayr, a place four hours' ride (15 miles) eastward of Damascus, and the chosen point of quarantine for caravans from the east. The Bedawi, who brings the British mail from Baghdad will be conducted by Khawajah Yakub Smoulian, Post Office Accountant, to Khan Kusayr, without being allowed to enter any of the villages; the bags will there be fumigated, and be conveyed to Damascus for transmission to E[illegible]

The extreme impurity of this city, far exceeding [illegible] immoderate consumption of fruit by the poor after a winter of semi-starvation, make me fear that Damascus may suffer from the disease in the course of the coming winter

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON

Inclosure 3 in No. 63.

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot

(No. 31.)

Sir, *Damascus, August* 9, 1871.

IN continuation of my despatch of the 16th ultimo, I have the honour to submit to your Excellency the following particulars: —

Having protested, in the name of the British-protected Jews of Tiberias, against the [illegible] to have been their property for centuries, I received on July 13 a note, marked "particulière," from his Excellency Rashid Pasha, informing me that the case had been submitted to the local tribunals.

On August 2, after allowing a reasonable time to elapse, and wishing to reassure the Jews of Tiberias, whose many letters showed that they expected the worst results, I requested M. Awadys, dragoman of this Consulate, to wait upon the Governor-General and to request an official answer to my despatch. The result may be given in the words of M. Awadys:—

"[illegible] demander une réponse relative à l'affaire de la synagogue de Tiberias. Le Wali m'a dit avec un ton irrité, 'J'ai déjà répondu à M. le Consul sur le propos en lui disant que je m'en occuperai; pourquoi donc revient-il sur la même question?' C'est probablement, je lui ai dit, pour en connaître le résultat. 'Mais je ne suis pas tenu,' m'a dit son Excellence, 'de rendre compte à M. le Consul sur mes affaires. Cette affaire regarde le [illegible] M. le Consul [illegible] British [illegible] influe[illegible] understood.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

Inclosure 4 in No. 63

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot

(No. 32.)

Sir, *Damascus, August 9, 1871.*

I HAVE the honour to forward the present Report in continuation of my despatch No. 18 of the 7th July.

In that despatch I had mentioned that his Excellency Rashid Pasha had named as his agent at Nazareth a certain Usman Bey Mardrum Bey. This notori[illegible] bears the worst of characters. During the administration of Sufwati Pasha his name, with that of his brother, was registered at the Great Yakya Mosque of Damascus [illegible] the notables of the place, and the members of the chief Tribunal, signed a Mazbatah, and swore upon Koran that these men and sundry others, convicted of gross malversation, should never again be employed under Government. Of course the impeachment has been openly disregarded by Rashid Pasha, and thus the trial of those who assaulted my people at Nazareth has ended in a manner which cannot be characterized except as disgraceful.

The trial commenced on the 23rd ultimo, when my Agents, Messrs. Finzi and Barbour, of St. Jean d'Acre, appeared for me. They report that Usman Bey at once refused to take down in writing all the evidence adduced by them, whilst he carefully registered all the false statements of the Greek community. They protested, July 29, 1871, to Rashid Effendi, the Governor of St. Jean d'Acre, against the illegal conduct of Rashid Pasha's Commissioner, and they demanded that the statement of both [illegible] received [illegible] The Commissioner openly threatened all who testified against the assailant, and imprisoned one Yusuf el Khuri, a Maronite, who had deposed in my favour.

The result of this scandalous conduct was a Mazbatah issued by the Tribunal of Nazareth. This document certified, contrary to fact, that the Commissioners had not refused to accept in writing the evidence adduced by my agents. It also accepted, contrary to law, the verbal security of the Greek Bishop, Monsignor Niffon, and it released the fourteen accused.

The Governor of St. Jean d'Acre left Nazareth on the night of July 31. And on August 2 Usman Bey proceeded to Nablus.

The following extract from a letter by the Rev. John Zeller (August 2, 1871), will show what that gentleman thought of the proceedings which he witnessed [illegible] investigation against the people who made the attack upon your party was suddenly broken off, and all the prisoners were set at liberty. The whole trial was, from the beginning, a wretched farce, and with this conclusion must necessarily produce the impression upon the population of Nazareth, that any outrage upon an Englishman, resident or traveller, can be committed without fear of punishment, as the Government will do its utmost to screen the offenders.

And Mr. Zeller proceeds to account, in proof of his opinions, that the workmen employed upon the Protestant church at Nazareth were attacked by the people, and the works have consequently been suspended.

All foreigners resident in Syria will readily understand that the proceedings of Usman Bey were purely and simply the work of his Excellency Rashid Pasha. Anything more puerile than such a form of administering justice can hardly be conceived. The trial will form a fair measure of the capacity of the present Governor-General for administering such a province as Syria.

I propose, as soon as an official copy of the *procès-verbal* shall reach me, to appeal to the Chief Court of Appeal at Damascus, the Majlis Tamyiz el Hukuk.

My despatch of July 7 will prepare your Excellency for what will be the verdict [illegible] controlled by Vizirial letters. And when justice shall be refused to me at Damascus I have the honour to request that I may be allowed to appeal at Constantinople.

I look confidently to the support of your Excellency, not only to secure my rights as a British subject, but also in the interest of our fellow countrymen who may be travelling through, or resident in Syria. And I firmly hope that I may be allowed to carry this case to its legitimate conclusion, and to show what passes for justice under the administration of this province.

His Excellency Rashid Pasha has applied with instance for my recall; it is evident that the sooner he is removed from Syria the better. At present he is one of the perils of the Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON

No. 64

Mr. Odo Russell to Consul-General Eldridge.

No. 22. Commercial.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 5, 1871*

WITH reference to your despatch No. 27, Consular, of the 14th ultimo, I am directed by Earl Granville to convey to you his Lordship's approval of your having instructed Mr. Vice-Consul Jago to take over from Captain Burton the charge of Her Majesty's Consulate at Damascus.

Mr. Jago is authorized by Lord Granville to discharge the duties of Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus pending further arrangements.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 65.

Extract from the "Standard" of September 7, 1871.

THREATENED TROUBLES IN SYRIA.

To the Editor of the "Standard."

Sir,

FOREWARNED will not be forearmed in this case, for the mischief is half done already by the actions of Her Majesty's Government.

I came to Syria in February last with a [illegible] from the Palestine Exploration Fund. I have since been travelling over the length and breadth of the land, and this, with several years' previous acquaintance with the East, enables me to see more of the real state of the country than falls to the lot of the ordinary tourist.

In the early spring I found Syria in an almost abnormal state of excitement, arising from many causes. That excitement has gone on increasing, chiefly for five reasons. 1. The injustice and rapacity of the Governor-General (Wali), Mohammed Rashad Pacha, who now misgoverns Syria. 2. The agitation kept up by Egypt, with whom Syria and its Governor sympathise only too strongly, and with whom they will act the moment opportunity offers. 3. The ruin of the peasantry, crushed by exorbitant taxes, starved by a bad season, and devoured by Jewish money-lenders. 4. The way in which the Wali pits sect against sect for his own political ends; and in this land, where party feeling runs so high, nothing is easier. And, 5. The strong Christian movement, none the less strong for being under the surface—this has already been noticed in some English papers.

There was but one man in Syria who both saw and protested against the many and glaring acts of injustice done by the Wali, and this was Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Damascus, Captain R. F. Burton, whom Her Majesty's Foreign Office have thought fit to remove, giving ear to the tale raised two years ago by certain missionaries and others that Moslem fanaticism was working against him. Knowing the people and the country as well as I do, I hesitate not one moment to say that this is a deliberate lie (and am ready to prove it such) invented by Captain Burton's enemies. Few men, if any, would have got on as well as he has with all classes here, Mohammedans and Metaweli, Greek Catholics and Syrians, Protestants and Latins. He visited and was visited by the religious Sheikhs, and especially by the Emir Abd-el-Kader of Algerine fame. This prince is looked upon as the leader of Mohammedan religion here. These facts are sufficient to show how false is the plea of Captain Burton's being unable to deal with Mohammedans on account of their fanaticism. Only to-day I have heard numbers of Moslems deplore his removal, which pleased but the Wali and his creatures, and a few Jews engaged in nefarious usury. I dwell upon these points, as I feel convinced that unless his successor be a man of his stamp—

which will be hard to find—he will sink to that state of subserviency to the Wali to which the Consuls of other nations at Damascus have sunk. They are weak and timid, and completely under the Wali. The English Consul was the only man of independence; but now that Syria is becoming of vital importance to us on account of the [illegible] Government reading, at the instigation of a Turkish pacha, the only man fit to represent Great Britain in Syria. The Wali, having succeeded by his vile intrigues in displacing one of the most efficient of Her Majesty's Consular Officers, will feel that there is no one to check his malpractices; the peasantry, sooner or later, must rise; the great Christian movement will be crushed, not without bloodshed, for the converts now number many thousands of resolute men of all classes, and we must be prepared for the worst. I venture to predict that before many months have passed the troubles of Syria will have drawn upon her the eyes of Europe, and when blood has been shed England will see the error she has committed in throwing her influence here to the dogs and obeying the wishes of Rashid Pasha.

(Signed) CHAS. F. TYRWHITT DRAKE

Damascus, August 16, 1871.

No. 66

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(Received September 9.)

(Separate.)

My Lord, *Damascus, August 17, 1871.*

YESTERDAY, upon the receipt of your despatch of July 22, 1871, I handed over the archives of Her Majesty's Consulate at Damascus to Mr. Acting Consul Jago, and I have made preparations for leaving Damascus to-morrow morning.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

No. 67

Acting Consul Jago to Earl Granville.—(Received September 9.)

(Separate.)

My Lord, *Damascus, August 16, 1871.*

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship that in obedience to Mr. Consul-General Eldridge's instructions, I left Beyrout on the evening of the 14th to take charge of this Consulate. I arrived here [illegible] and found Captain Burton absent at his summer residence I despatched a messenger to acquaint him with my arrival. On receipt of my communication Captain Burton started for this city and on his arrival to-day immediately made over to me the archives of the Consulate.

I took the necessary measures to obtain my recognition by the local authorities, and have to-day, therefore, entered on my duties as Acting Consul.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THO. S. JAGO.

No. 68.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot

(No. 106. Commercial.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 12, 1871.*

I HAVE received from Captain Burton copies of his despatches to your Excellency of the 8th and 9th ultimo.

I have to request that you will let the Porte clearly understand that the withdrawal of Captain Burton does not imply any diminution of interest on the part of Her Majesty's Government in the affairs of Syria.

With respect to the case of the Protestants of Bawarish and the synagogue at Tiberias, which form the subjects of two of Captain Burton's despatches, I [illegible] your Excellency will [illegible] Her Majesty's Government [illegible] your good offices to be extended to effect promptly an equitable and satisfactory settlement of these matters, as well as of the various outstanding claims in which British interests are immediately concerned.

With regard to the inquiry into the disturbance at Nazareth, which forms the subject of Captain Burton's despatch of the 9th ultimo, if the matter is correctly reported there your Excellency will state that Her Majesty's Government must insist on the displacement of the officers who have so grossly failed in the performance of the duty entrusted to them, as well as on the punishment of the offenders. Your Excellency will speak very seriously to the new Grand Vizier on this point, and say that Her Majesty's Government expect a searching inquiry to be instituted without delay.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 69

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(Received September 18.)

(Separate.)

My Lord, *Beyrout, August [illegible], 1871.*

[illegible] Mr. Consul-General [illegible] Her Majesty's Government [illegible] Her Majesty's Ambassador [illegible] Her Majesty's Government [illegible]

Rashid Pasha, one of the most corrupt men in the Turkish Empire, devotes sometimes pages to an attack upon a Consular Dragoman. His despatch so teems with [illegible] I will, therefore, briefly dispose of a few of the most serious accusations.

It is entirely untrue that Mr. Consul Rogers ever withheld his confidence from M. Azar, who, after some five years' service, obtained from that office the most satisfactory testimonials. It is equally false that Mr. Acting Consul Charles Wood looked upon M. Azar as a "stone of scandal;" had he done so, he would not, before his departure [illegible] given this Dragoman the best of characters. Mr. Kennedy remained only a few days at Damascus, and if he heard of anything "deplorable" on the part of M. Azar it was from the Governor-General himself. Rashid Pasha asserts that he has more than once taken the opportunity of complaining to me against M. Azar. He used against him, it is true, all manner of private and irregular intercession, but until quite of late he never made an open and honest complaint in a public and official form. Knowing the Governor-General's personal antipathy to M. Azar, I suggested to the latter that on such occasions as visits, for instance, he had better absent himself. The "false reports" spread by M. Azar were not heard by nor reported to me, and if they related to the "perils of Christians" and to "reports of fresh misfortunes," it will not, I fear, be long before such reports will be justified. There was no "quarrel upon the occasion of my going to the church of Zeldani." I was never there. During the riot in question, when my wife was insulted, I was, as the Governor-General well [illegible] My wife, after the prisoners had been, as she thought, sufficiently punished, interceded for them. The head of the family, Sahib Bey (a family [illegible] not a title), when examined by me touching any charges which he might have against M. Azar, swore upon the Koran he had none, and made a similar deposition before the chief tribunal at Damascus, called Tanyig el Hukuk el Vilayi.

M. Azar visited the tribunal only by my order. So far from being on bad terms with the members he is a favourite with all who dare to be his friends. He has, on more than one occasion, defended the dignity of his office, and he did right. In the days of Mr. Richard Wood and Colonel Rose (Lord Strathnairn) the Governor-General and the Muchir (Field Marshal Commanding) used to rise from their seats when a Consular Dragoman entered the room, and would order for him pipes and coffee. [illegible] lately that M. Jubran Abd el Nuri, Consular Dragoman to the Vice-Consulate of Greece in Damascus, was ignominiously and without reason turned out of Court, and of course his Vice-Consul did not dare to [illegible] without the express order of the Governor-General [illegible]

I am personally [illegible] threatened the life of M. Azar, and I am equally certain that the "imaginary-plunder,"

attributed by his Excellency's instruments to "wild pigs," is a fact. This was reported by me to Her Majesty's Embassy, Constantinople. I did not, however, explain that these Ghaza plunderers, who are allowed almost every week to ride and harry the Damascus plain, have for some time past given hostages to the local Governor, and that consequently their raids, as all at Damascus know, are directed and controlled by the Governor-General.

Rashid Pasha has, perhaps, not exceeded his powers in forbidding the tribunal to [illegible] he must find it an easy task to deal with a Consular Dragoman. But I hope, for the honour of the English name, that before Her Majesty's Consulate at Damascus sanctions this perverse and illegal measure, it will give M. Azar a fair and open trial. M. Azar courts the freest investigation of the charges brought against him, and has no doubt that, if the proceedings be properly conducted, he will be found guiltless.

Rashid Pasha, after taking a step which ought to satisfy even his vindictive feelings, still pushes the law against M. Azar. The fact is, he wishes to take away British protection from, and then to ruin, a Consular Dragoman who has dared to do his duty. As has been reported to Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople, M. Azar, before I took charge at Damascus, convicted the Governor-General, in presence of Mr. Acting [illegible] Rashid Pasha never forgiven him, and never will, he cannot be satisfied with anything short of ruining his enemy.

It remains only for me to deny explicitly that M. Azar has ever "irritated and [illegible] redress to British protégés, and his opposition to all legitimate Consular influence, [illegible] openly displayed during the last twenty months, are sufficient to "irritate and [illegible] any public servant who would do his duty.

M. Azar is a man of good family and of sufficient means. His profession was that of a banker when he thought to improve his position by becoming Dragoman to Her Majesty's Consulate at Damascus. Since 1865 he has given all his time to his duties without receiving a farthing of pay, and he has shown a zeal and an intelligence [illegible] the hatred of the Governor-General. He is the only Dragoman who has a thorough [illegible] during the last twenty months I have found his services invaluable. It remains only to be seen, now that I have been "replaced," whether a public servant of six years' standing will obtain a fair and impartial trial, or will be left to the fate prepared for him by a Governor-General who, like Rashid Pasha, abuses his high position and the confidence of his Government with the view of crushing all opposition. And should the latter succeed in carrying out his project, the only persons who will consent to act as Dragoman to Her Majesty's Consulate, or to any other Consulate at Damascus, will be simply the tool of the Governor-General, allowed freely to take bribes, and to indulge in any kind of malpractice as the price of betraying their employers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON

No. 70.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received September 19.)

(No. 112. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 5, 1871.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a despatch received last night from Captain Burton respecting the trial of the persons engaged in the Nazareth riots, and complaining of the sentence of the tribunal of Nazareth having been confirmed at St. Jean d'Acre in the absence of his agents.

I am without information respecting the proceedings at the former place, Captain Burton having made no report to me about them.

Although, upon a correctional trial of Ottoman subjects, Captain Burton cannot have had a strict right to be represented, nevertheless, considering the extent to which he was himself implicated, an opportunity ought, in my opinion, to have been given to his agents to watch the case; and I inclose the copy of a telegram to Acting Consul Jago desiring him to see that the investigation is fair and impartial, if, as Captain Burton intimates, it is brought, on appeal, to Damascus.

Your Lordship will observe that, although Captain Burton complains that the Governor obliged the tribunal to confirm the sentence without allowing his agents to be present, those gentlemen, in their letter sent in corroboration of this statement, only say that the confirmation took place without their "knowledge or intervention," but the distinction is very great.

I have forwarded an extract of Messrs. Finzi and Barbour's letters to the Porte, in the Memorandum of which I have the honour to inclose a copy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT

Inclosure 1 in No. 70

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot.

(Separate.)

Sir, *Beyrout, August 20, 1871.*

IN continuation of my last Report concerning the case of Nazareth, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that my Agents, Messrs. Finzi and Barbour, of St. Jean d'Acre, report to me as follows:

Rushdi Effendi, the Governor (Mutassarif) of St. Jean d'Acre, has obliged the Correctional Tribunal to confirm the sentence of the Tribunal of Nazareth without allowing any agents to be present. It condemned four paupers of Nazareth, and two of my servants, to the greater penalty, and two other Greek paupers to the minor penalty. My servants, after being assaulted and nearly killed are thus, without form of trial, found equally guilty with those who assaulted them and myself.

Having quitted Damascus, I have formally constituted my agent in the matter, Mr. C. H. Tyrwhitt Drake, my fellow-traveller and chief witness to the riot at Nazareth. He will, doubtless, as soon as officially provided with a copy of the decision arrived at, demand his right of appeal to Damascus, and I presume that he will be backed up by your Excellency.

I also hope that you will have no objection to my publishing, in English and French, the proceedings of these Turkish Tribunals, and to showing to the [illegible] or the Government of the infamous Rashid Pasha, passes for justice in [illegible] I warn your Excellency that, unless this man, who so grossly abuses his [illegible] and the confidence which he purchases from his Government be recalled, the [illegible] name in Syria will have suffered irreparable injury, whilst neither the lives nor liberties of our subjects or our protégés will be safe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON

Inclosure 2 in No. 70

Messrs. Finzi and Barbour to Consul Burton.

M. le Consul, *Acre, le 7 Août, 1871.*

A LA suite de notre dernière lettre du 3 du courant par poste Ottomane, nous nous empressons de vous dire que le Mutassarif d'Acre a réussi à obliger le Tribunal Correctionnel à confirmer la sentence du Tribunal de Nazareth jugeant que quatre [illegible] la nation Grecque de Nazareth, et deux de vos domestiques leur* sont [illegible] majeure et deux de la susdite catégorie de Nazareth soient [illegible]

Cette confirmation du Tribunal Correctionnel d'Acre a eu lieu Samedi au soir, 5 du courant, c'est-à-dire, six jours après le jugement de Nazareth, sans notre connaissance ni intervention.

Veuillez prendre en considération, M. le Consul, que la réponse du Mutassarif à notre protêt du 27 Juillet que nous lui adressames à Nazareth par l'entremise du [illegible] clos et expédié au Wali à Damas, tandis que le dit journal partit pour Acre le même Mutassarif pour le faire, bon gré mal gré, corroborer du Tribunal Correctionnel d'Acre. Ce point là il suffit pour faire connaître que le jugement de Nazareth et la mission de Osman Merdam Bey n'étant que l'exécution des ordres que le Wali de Damas avait

* *Sic in orig.*

préalablement donnés afin d'étouffer la vérité des faits, et l'Evêque Grec de Nazareth fl avait connaissance depuis son depart de Damas de l'informal complot tramé à Damas par le Wali, ayant le dit Evêque, aussitot arrivé à Acre, annoncée votre destitution.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) FINZI AND BARBOUR.

Inclosure 3 in No. 70

Sir H. Elliot to Acting Consul Jago.

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September 5, 1871.*

THE sentence of the Tribunal at Acre on the persons concerned in the Nazareth affray is likely to be brought, on appeal, to Damascus.

You will in that case see that the investigation is full and impartial.

Inclosure 4 in No. 70

Memorandum addressed to the Sublime Porte.

IT would appear from the letter, of which an extract is inclosed, from Messrs. Finzi and Barbour, Captain Burton's agents at Acre, that the investigation of the Nazareth affray is not being carried on as satisfactorily as I had hoped might be the case.

Captain Burton's agents ought to have been present when the matter was brought before the Correctional Tribunal at Acre.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT

No. 71

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(Received September 20.)

(Separate.) 14, *Montague Place, Montague Square,*

My Lord, *September 18, 1871.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, under orders conveyed to me by your Lordship's despatch No. 3 of the 2nd July last, I have duly handed over the Consulate of Damascus to Mr. Consul Wood, and am returning to this country.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON

No. 72

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received September 22.)

(No. 117 Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 9, 1871.*

CAPTAIN BURTON forwarded to your Lordship a copy of his despatch No 26 of the 17th of July,* and Mr. Consul-General Eldridge his of the 11th of August,† respecting the complaints of the Governor-General of Syria against Mr. Hanna Azar, one of the Consular Dragomans at Damascus.

I have now the honour to inclose a copy of the reply of Mr. Eldridge to the inquiries I had addressed to him in reference to Mr. Azar, and of a further communication from Captain Burton upon the same subject.

The excessive violence of the latter, who speaks of Mr. Azar's life being threatened by the Governor-General's assassins, and of the raids of the plundering Arabs being directed by his Excellency, renders it difficult to deal satisfactorily with the case. I represented, however, to Server Effendi that, Captain Burton being now removed from Damascus, it would be desirable for the Governor-General to drop the complaint he has made against Mr. Azar, and his Excellency has already written to Rashid Pasha in this sense. In the despatch now transmitted to your Lordship Captain Burton

* Inclosure 3 in No. 49.

† Inclosure 1 in No. 59.

writes that Mr Azar "has on more than one occasion defended the dignity of his office, and he did right.

"In the days of Mr Richard Wood and Colonel Rose, when the English Government had some influence in Syria, the Governor-General and the Mushir used to rise from their seats when a Consular Dragoman entered the room, and ordered for him pipes and coffee. Those days are now gone."

If I particularly call your Lordship's attention to these words, it is because I [illegible] of Captain Burton having assumed.

He did not understand that the days when Governors-General trembled before Consular Dragomans had passed, never, it is to be hoped, to return.

The struggle for direct influence or domination among the different foreign Representatives, which was carried on throughout the Empire previous to the Crimean War, has since that time been dropped by a tacit understanding, and no Governor-General would submit to the subserviency to a Consul which was [illegible] Captain Burton fell into the error of endeavouring to recover for himself and for his Dragoman a position neither aimed at by his colleagues nor compatible with the altered state of affairs, and he naturally encountered the strenuous opposition of the Gover[illegible]

I [illegible] already informed your Lordship that the other Consuls at Damascus are for [illegible] same view as Captain Burton with regard to Rashid Pasha; and the despatch, of which the copy is inclosed, records the estimation in which he was held by Acting Consul Wood, who declares that "it is but due to his Excellency to state that his high administrative talents, his successes in his expeditions, and the high sense of duty with which he endeavours to inspire his subordinates, have won for him the admiration of all; whilst his quiet and unassuming manner, his conciliatory disposition, and a sympathetic interest which he seems to evince for all who come in contact with him, have appealed powerfully to the affection of the people, who unanimously acknowledge him to be the best Governor they have had."

This despatch was written by Mr. Wood, who had the charge of Her Majesty's Consulate at Damascus, very shortly before Captain Burton's arrival, and offers a [illegible] contrast to the descriptions given by the latter in his recent communications, which, whether there may be foundation for them or not, exhibit a personal and passionate hostility which would alone suffice to cause them to be received with caution.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT

Inclosure 1 in No. 72

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir H. Elliot

Sir, *Aleih, Mount Lebanon, August 23, 1871.*

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Excellency's despatch of the 6th instant requesting me to inform you whether, in my opinion, there are grounds which would render it desirable to withdraw British protection from Mr. Hanna Misk.

In reply I have the honour to state that I know of no grounds that would render such a step desirable, but, on the contrary, I consider it would be most [illegible] unjust to deprive Mr. Misk of his protection after the services that he, his father, and other members of his family have rendered to Her Majesty's Government.

The circumstances under which Mr. Misk obtained British protection were set forth in a letter of Mr. R. Wood, transmitted by Mr. Consul-General Rogers in his despatch of the 26th December, 1867, and in your reply of the 2nd January, 1868, your Excellency would seem to concur in the justice of Mr Misk's claims to protection.

With regard to the charges brought against Mr. Misk of intriguing to aid the Wali of Syria to destroy the international regulations under which Mount Lebanon is governed, I am not aware that at the present moment any attempts are being made to set aside these regulations, and I do not think it likely that such attempts could be made without their coming to my knowledge, though it is quite possible and natural that Rashid Pasha may have privately expressed his dissatisfaction that a portion of Syria surrounded by his Vilayet should be governed under a different and exceptional system from that which prevails in the rest of the Ottoman Empire.

I cannot say what opinions Mr. Misk may have expressed with regard to converts

to Christianity, but from my knowledge of him I can hardly suppose that he would have used the language attributed to him by Captain Burton.

For the present I should prefer not to report on the case of Mr. H. Azar until I o obtained further information on the subject; I can only say that when at Beyrout Rashid Pasha has frequently complained to me most bitterly respecting his conduct, but beyond speaking to Captain Burton I did not consider myself justified in interfering.

Captain Burton addressed to your Excellency from Beyrout a long despatch (of which I have been furnished with copy) respecting Mr. Azar, and I would remark on the concluding paragraph, in which Captain Burton speaks of the injustice of a public servant of six years' standing being dismissed without a trial, that that argument has much greater weight in the case of Mr. Musk, who from a mere lad has grown old in the service; and the services of his father, which Mr. Wood mentions as having continued for fifty-three years, ought, in my opinion, to be taken into account in considering the claims of Mr. Musk to British protection.

I have, &c.

(Signed) S. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 72

Consul Burton to Sir H. Elliot

Sir, *Beyrout, August 19, 1871.*

A LETTER from Mr. Consul Eldridge, dated August 11th, informing me that a copy of the charges made against Mr. Hanna Azar, one of the Dragomans of Her Majesty's Consulate, Damascus, has been forwarded to your Excellency, I have the honour to supply the following particulars:—

Rashid Pasha, Governor-General of Syria, and one of the most corrupt men in the Turkish Empire, devoted some ten pages to an attack upon a Consulate Dragoman. The paper so teems with untruths that to show them all up would require an answer of almost equal prolixity; I will, however, briefly dispose of a few of the most serious.

It is a wicked falsehood that Mr. Consul Rogers ever withdrew his confidence from Mr. Azar, who, after some five years' service, obtained from that officer the [illegible] a "stone of scandal:" had he done so he would not have given him before his departure the best of characters. Mr. Kennedy, in the first place, did not visit Damascus as an inspector; secondly he met Mr. Azar only once or twice, and if that officer heard of anything "deplorable," it was from the lips of the Governor-General himself.

Rashid Pasha asserts untruly that he has more than once taken the opportunity of complaining to me against Mr. Azar; he used against him all manner of private and irregular intercession, but until quite of late he never made an open and honest complaint in a public and official form.

Knowing the Governor-General's petty spite against Mr. Azar, I suggested to the latter that on such occasions as visits, for instance, he had better absent himself. The "false reports" spread by Mr. Azar were [illegible] resulted to the "perils of Christians" [illegible] be long before his reports will be justified. There was no "quarrel upon the occasion [illegible] question, when my wife was insulted, I was, as the Governor-General well knows, at Damascus. My wife, after the prisoners had been, as she thought, sufficiently punished, interceded for them. The head of the family, Salih Bey (a family name, not a title), when examined by her touching any charges which he might have against Mr. Azar, swore upon the Koran that he had none, and made a similar deposition before the Chief Tribunal, called Tamyiz el hukuk el hiayt. "Incontestable proof" of Mr. Azar's "moral perversity." Mr. Azar visited the Tribunals only by my order; so far from being on bad terms with the members, he is a personal favourite with those who care to keep up friendly relations with him. He has, on more than one occasion, defended the dignity of his office, and he did right. In the days of Mr. Richard Wood and Colonel Rose (Lord Strathnairn) when the English Government had some influence in Syria, the Governor-General and the Mushir (Field-Marshal Commanding) used to rise from their seats when a Consular Dragoman entered the room, and ordered for him pipes and coffee. Those days are now gone. It is only lately M. Jiban Abd el Nuri, Consular Dragoman to the Vice-Consulate of Greece, was turned out of the room without reason. No Tribunal would dare to act as they without the express order of the Governor-General, but that is a part of his system.

I am personally satisfied that Rashid Pasha has, through his assassins, the Ghuyna Bedawin, threatened the life of Mr. Azar, and I am equally certain that the "imaginary plunder," attributed by his Excellency's instruments to "wild pigs," is a solid and concrete fact. The whole affair was at once placed by me before your Excellency. I did not, however, add that these Ghuyna plunderers, who are allowed every week to ride and harry the Damascus Plain, have for some time past given hostages to the local Government, and that, consequently, as all at Damascus know, their raids are directed by the Serai.

The Governor-General has, perhaps, not exceeded the limits of his powers in forbidding the Tribunals to admit Mr. Azar. He has dismissed three Consuls, and he must find it an easy task to deal with a Consular Dragoman. But I hope, for the honour of the English name, that before Her Majesty's Consulate at Damascus sanctions thus perverse and illegal measure it will give Mr. Azar a fair and open trial, instead of seeing the "expediency of suspending him from his functions of Dragoman." Mr. Azar courts the just investigations of the charges brought against him, and I have no doubt that, if the proceedings are fairly conducted, he will be found guiltless.

Rashid Pasha, after taking a step which ought to satisfy his revenge, still pushes the case against Mr. Azar. The fact is, he is resolved to ruin a Consular Dragoman who has dared to do his duty.

As has been reported to your Excellency, Mr. Azar, before I took charge of Her Majesty's Consulate at Damascus, convicted the Governor-General, in presence of Mr. Acting Consul Charles Wood, of a wilful falsehood for interested purposes. Rashid Pasha, true to the Turkish instinct, has never forgiven him, and never will. He will be satisfied with nothing short of ruining his enemy. The nature of the "longanimity" of which he speaks is well known to every one in Syria. It remains only for me to deny explicitly that Mr. Azar has ever "irritated and excited" me against the Governor-General of Syria. The open refusal of redress to British protégés, and the opposition to all legitimate Consular interference systematically displayed during the last twenty months, are sufficient to "irritate and excite" any honest man.

Mr. Azar is a man of good family, and of sufficient means. His profession was that of a banker, when, in an evil hour, he thought to improve his position by becoming Dragoman to Her Majesty's Consulate at Damascus. Since 1865 he has given all his time to his duties without receiving a farthing of pay; and he has shown a zeal and intelligence combined with a far rarer quality, an independent bearing, which has secured for him the hatred of the Governor-General. He is the only Dragoman to Her Majesty's Consulate, Damascus, who has a thorough knowledge of law and custom and of the proceedings of the native Tribunals. During the last twenty months I have found his services invaluable. It remains only to be seen, now that I have been "replaced," whether a public servant of six years' standing will obtain a fair and impar[illegible] Rashid Pasha, who abuses his high position and the confidence of his Government with the object of crushing all opposition. And should this corrupt and unworthy man succeed in carrying out his projects, the only persons who will consent to act as Dragomans of Her Majesty's Consulate, or any other Consulate at Damascus, will be simply the tools of the Governor-General, allowed freely to take bribes, and to indulge in every kind of malpractice as the price of betraying their employers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 72

Acting Consul Wood to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Damascus, June 16, 1869.*

THERE is an idea prevailing throughout the vilayet that Rashid Pasha, on his arrival at Constantinople, will be called upon to fill a higher and more important post, notwithstanding that his Excellency has given assurances of his speedy return.

The inhabitants of Damascus, acting upon this idea, and unwilling that his Excellency should leave the country without some public acknowledgment of their sincere regard and respect for him, have given a banquet in his honour.

It is the first time that this city has given a public testimony of its esteem to its Chief Magistrate, and the first time also that this mode of expressing it has been adopted.

With the exception of the exclusion of wine, expressly forbidden by Mahomedan law, it was surprising to see how European fashion, in all its details, entirely superseded the mode of arrangement that would have been adopted here for such an occasion, thus adding a further proof that the influence of European civilization has made itself felt in a city which boasts of its Conservative spirit.

The Representatives of the foreign Powers, the heads of all the religious communities, as well as the principal officials and inhabitants of Damascus, were invited, amounting, in all, to 170 guests.

Two tables were set in a garden, which was illuminated with 2,000 lights.

Rashid Pasha presided over the first table, and the Mushir over the second [illegible] successes in his expectations, his high sense of duty with which he endeavours to inspire his subordinates, have won for him the admiration of all, whilst his quiet and unassuming manner, his conciliatory disposition, and a sympathetic interest he seems to evidence for all who come in contact with him, have appealed powerfully to the affection of the people, who unanimously acknowledge him to be the best Governor they have had.

Owing to a recent bereavement in my family I was unable to assist at this banquet.

I have, &c
(Signed) CHARLES WOOD.

No. 73

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received September 22.)

No. 118.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 19, 1871*

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a letter which I have received from Rashid Pasha, conveying his acknowledgments for the removal of Captain Burton from D[illegible]

In my reply, of which a copy is likewise inclosed, I have abstained from entering [illegible] wish of Her Majesty's Government to see a cordial understanding maintained between the British Consular Agents and the Ottoman Authorities.

As Rashid Pasha, however, alluded to the affair of Nazareth, assuming the blame of it to have lain with Captain Burton, I have said that the details which have reached me do not confirm this view, and that I trust for him to see impartial justice shown on the trial of the accused.

I took the same opportunity of reminding him of the pending claims of the British protected subjects against the local Government.

I have, &c
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT

Inclosure 1 in No. 73

Rashid Pasha to Sir H. Elliot

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Damas, le 24 Août, 1871*

J'E m'empresse de vous remercier du rappel de M. Burton, ce qui est en même temps une preuve nouvelle de la haute bienveillance qu'il vous plaît de me témoigner.

Vous ne sauriez croire combien je regrettais de ne pouvoir pas m'entendre avec un [illegible] Druses; il créait des scènes désagréables comme celle qui mit en émoi tout

Nazareth. Entré à Damas, M. Burton, toujours hostile à tous et à tout, ne fusait que prédire des malheurs, représentait le pays sur un volcan, jetait l'alarme parmi les Chrétiens en évoquant le phantôme des évènements de 1860, se promenait toujours armé [illegible] Chrétiens que leur sûreté était menacée. La présence de M. Burton était un danger [illegible] et en menant les évènements.

Pour les Musulmans autrement habitués à l'attitude et à la conduite des Consuls Anglais, Burton était une anomalie inexplicable et douloureuse. Les collègues de M. Burton le laissèrent se débattre seul sur un terrain aussi suspect. M. Eldridge était navré et effrayé des conséquences terribles que l'ex-Consul pourrait produire. On ne sait jamais préciser la limite où un homme comme Burton pourrait nous mener. Heureusement la tranquillité publique n'a pas été troublée un seul instant malgré le "Levant Herald." Burton dans ce moment est loin de nous; il ne nous a laissé en partant que la menace d'un pamphlet qu'il allait publier à Londres sur le gouvernement de Syrie. Madame Burton est encore ici pour effectuer la vente de ses effets; elle nous quittera bientôt aussi, j'espère, et si je n'ai pas plus longuement parlé d'elle, c'est par un sentiment de pur respect, toujours dû à une dame, sans quoi j'eusse été forcé de rappeler ce coup de pistolet qu'elle a fait tirer à Zeldany, par son domestique, sur un enfant Musulman qui ne s'était pas levé sur son passa[illegible]

M. Jago est venu prendre possession du [illegible]sulat. Ai-je besoin de dire que mes rapports avec lui sont déjà sur un pied excellent, et dans ma longue carrière je n'ai eu toujours qu'à me louer de mes relations officielles et amicales avec les Agents de Sa Majesté Britannique. Que dirai-je de vous même, M. l'Ambassadeur? Je n'oublierai jamais l'accueil plein de distinction que vous avez bien voulu me faire et la bienveillance dont vous m'honorez. Aussi c'est en vous priant de continuer d'étendre sur moi cette même bienveillance si hautement précieuse pour moi que, plein de gratitude, je suis heureux de profiter, &c.

Signé) RACHID

Inclosure 2 in No. 73

[illegible]

(Particulière.)
Excellence, *Therapia, le 13 Septembre, 1871.*

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir la lettre que vous avez bien voulu m'écrire le 26 Août dernier, et qui m'exprime votre satisfaction à la nouvelle du rappel de M. Burton.

Mon Gouvernement, qui met toujours un grand prix à maintenir la meilleure intelligence entre ses Agents Consulaires et les autorités Impériales, a vu qu'à Damas cet accord n'existait malheureusement pas, et s'est décidé à relever M. Burton de ses fonctions. Je me plais à espérer que dorénavant les relations entre le Konak et le Consulat reprendront leur cordialité première.

Je m'abstiens d'entrer ici dans les questions qui se sont élevées entre votre Excellence et M. Burton; mais comme elle fait allusion à l'évènement de Nazareth, et [illegible] Damas même, et je suis que je puis compter sur votre Excellence pour qu'elle veille à ce que cet examen soit conduit d'une manière sérieuse et impartiale, et que les vrais auteurs de l'agression contre la personne d'un Consul Anglais soient puni selon leur degré de culpabilité.

Je profite de cette occasion pour rappeler au souvenir de votre Excellence les réclamations pendantes de plusieurs sujets ou protégés Anglais à la charge du Gouvernement local dont quelques unes sont d'une date assez reculée.

Comme il sera rigoureusement prescrit à M. Jago de ne jamais appuyer aucune de [illegible] qu'il vous présentera obtiendront la prompte attention qu'elles méritent.

Je prie, &c.
[illegible] HENRY ELLIOT

No. 74.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 112. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September 22, 1871.*

WITH reference to Captain Burton's despatch of the 19th of August, respecting the complaint against Mr. Hanna Azar, the substance of which has been communicated to your Excellency in a despatch of the same date,* I have to request that you will take care, in the event of the matter being pursued further, that the case is properly investigated.

I am, &c
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 75.

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(Received September 23.)

(Separate.)
My Lord, *Athenæum Club, Waterloo Place, September 22, 1871.*

I HAVE the honour to record in writing what was stated by me yesterday to your Lordship. Already one attempt has been made upon the life of Mr. C. F. Tyrwhitt Drake, and I have [illegible] the action of the Governor-General [illegible]. Also the Rev. Mr. Wright runs [illegible], considerable risk, and he intends, it is reported, to send his family home from Syria.

[illegible] the safety of these British subjects will be the recall of his Excellency Rashid Pasha, now Wali of Syria, an official whose vindictive feelings have no bounds.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON

No. 76.

Mr. Odo Russell to Sir H. Elliot †

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, September 23, 1871.*

CALL upon Turkish authorities to take all required precautions to protect from danger Mr. Tyrwhitt Drake, Mr. Wright, and all British subjects in Syria.

No. 77.

Mr. Odo Russell to Consul Burton.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 27, 1871.*

I AM directed by Earl Granville to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant, and in reply I am to inform you that, immediately upon the receipt of the information you had given to him, he issued the necessary instructions for the safety of Mr. Tyrwhitt Drake and Mr. Wright.

I am, &c
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 78.

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(Received October .)

(Separate.)
My Lord, *Athenæum Club, October 1, 187*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Hammond's despatch of September 27, 1871. The recall of the Governor-General, Mohammed Rashid Pasha, which has taken place since I addressed your Lordship, completely changes the state

* Inclosure 2 in No. 72. † A similar telegram was addressed to Consul-General Eldridge.

of affairs in Syria, and if [illegible] precautionary measures of holding [illegible] creatures and deputies [illegible] treason [illegible] they should be carried into [illegible] length be safe.

I have however, to call your Lordship's attention to the assault committed upon [illegible] servants at Nazareth. Three of them nearly died, and I still bear the [illegible] was, that the rioters be tried, and if found guilty they be condemned to imprisonment, and a fine to be divided amongst my servants. The dismissal from office of Usman Bey Mardum Bey, representative of the late Governor-General and of Rashdi Effendi, Governor of [illegible] are, both are men of infamous precedents, [illegible] prevented the course of justice. Tourists [illegible] in danger of insult and robbery, unless the assault be punished as it deserves to be.

[illegible]

I have, &c
Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON

No. 79

Mr. Odo Russell to Consul-General Eldridge.

(No. 20)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 14, 1871*

I AM directed by Earl Granville to transmit to you the accompanying extract from the "Globe" newspaper of the 7th instant, and I am to desire that you will report to his Lordship what foundation there is for the statement that Mr. Vice-Consul Jago has left Damascus, and if true, the reasons for his having done so.

I am, &c
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

Inclosure in No. 79

Extract from the "Globe" of October 7, 1871.

THE RECALL OF CAPTAIN BURTON.—A letter from Mr. E. H. Palmer, the celebrated Arabic scholar and explorer of Moab, appears in the "Civil Service Gazette." It supplies [illegible] with reference to the recall of Captain Burton:—"The Consulate," he says, was left in charge of Mr. Jago, who, however, was so alarmed at certain demonstrations of dissatisfaction on the part of the natives that he prudently took advantage of [illegible] The English Government is therefore entirely unrepresented in Damascus. The Kurds who inhabit the suburb of Damascus called the Salahiyeh, say that now Captain Burton is gone, there is no one who can protect them from the extortions of the Governor-[illegible] They will not improve the pacific aspect of the country when they are let loose over it, feeling that they have no protector but their sword. The Mohammedans, whose fanatical aversion to Captain Burton is the ostensible pretext for his recall, have been holding mass meetings, and even praying publicly in the mosques that God will send him back to them. Letters are flowing in every day from village sheikhs and Bedouin chiefs, asking that he may return to Damascus, as there is no one else to whom they can appeal for help or succour. So strong is the feeling that Mrs. Burton was obliged to slip away secretly, as the people wished to retain her as a hostage in order to make sure that Captain Burton would go back to them. In addition to these facts, which I can vouch for, I can tell you that from my own experience of the country I feel sure that Captain Burton's absence will be a source of great inconvenience (to put it mildly) to intended travellers this next winter. If you have any friends who purpose visiting Syria you cannot do better than advise them not to do so, as there will assuredly be troubles before lon

No. 80.

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(Received October 23.)

(Separate.)

14, Montague Place, Montague Square, London,
October 16, 1871.

My Lord,

I HAD the honour to acknowledge, simply and without comment, the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 3 of August, 1871,* and according to your directions I returned to England with as little delay as possible. It becomes now my duty in a matter not only so serious of itself, but also so important as regards the public interests, [illegible] rred upon me [illegible] November 30, 1868. A rumour [illegible] ted me because I had pilgrimaged to [illegible] y life would be placed in danger by their fanaticism. I have been confidentially assured, and throughout Syria it is universally believed, that the originators of the report were certain persons who, fearing lest I should set on foot an anti-missionary policy, and would, perhaps, favour Moslem against Christian, represented the peril of arousing Mohammedan bigotry by allowing me to take office. They knew, as well as I knew, that my main difficulty would be the expectations of the Moslems to be the most favoured party at the Consulate. The late Lord Clarendon [illegible] d hardly help being impressed by these rumours coming from a source so respectable, and he forgot that after my pilgrimage to Meccah I had lived for years [illegible] Moslem communities Arab, African, and Indian, still more fanatical than the Syrian, as the late murder of Mr. Justice Norman may show. I was, however, allowed to proceed to my post with the following proviso: "If," says the despatch, Separate, of [illegible] and the people of Damascus should prevent the proper performance of your official duties, it will be his Lordship's duty immediately to recall you." My answer, June 21, 1869, was a direct denial that any such feeling existed, and a promise to act with more than usual circumspection.

Assuming my charge at Damascus on October 2, 1869, I met, as I fully expected, with the most flattering reception, and I reported, October 27, 1869, to Lord Clarendon that the chiefs of all parties, clerical as well as secular, had visited and welcomed me; even such men as the Shaykh Abdullah El-Halabi, who were considered too bigoted to enter the house of a European, and whose position forbade them to meet me at a hotel.

Having settled myself at the head-quarters of the Ottoman Government in Syria, I at once saw through the state of affairs. Your Lordship will doubtless have means of ascertaining the position held there by Great Britain, and you will probably concur with [illegible] British functionary in the East to secure and to maintain. You will best know how much of our national prestige exists when I took charge of the Consulate of Damascus, and I may venture to assert that it has never been higher than at the time of my recall.

[illegible] by impartiality, and by advocating [illegible] the words of a well-known [illegible] glish character and of taking from [illegible]

[illegible] Mentor Mott, Superintendent of the British Syrian Schools; and in my despatches I duly reported his visits at the capital as dangerous to himself and to the Christian community. My next step, on the other hand, was a demand for the punishment of certain Druses who had plundered and maltreated Mr. Mackintosh, an English missionary, and Her Majesty's Ambassador at [illegible], as your Lordship doubtless knows from my Reports, was that of curbing the rapacity of three native money-lenders enjoying British protection. This roused a storm of wrath which raged for some months, the case being made to assume a sort of religious aspect, from the fact of these persons belonging to the Jewish religion. Thus they obtained a support which they otherwise would not have done, although, as a rule, nothing can

* July; see No. 38.

be more dissimilar than the followers of Judaism at Damascus and their respected co-religionists of [illegible]

The circumstances which finally led to my recall date from the beginning of 1871. I was then weary of the succession of promises by word of mouth, in [illegible] telegram, with which the ex-Governor, Rashid Pasha [illegible] declared that it was my du[illegible] the most notorious and flagrant cases to the notice of Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople. Rashid Pasha hated nothing more than such references, and ever regarded and spoke of them as overt acts of hostile inclination. From that time I date his repeated attacks, intended, as is well known on the spot, to weary out the superior authorities at the capital, and to induce demands for my return. I need not specify to your Lordship the mode in which such intrigues are usually conducted throughout the Turkish dominions.

[illegible] eneral seized the opportunity of a village riot at [illegible] the part of the rioters, and to endorse their falsehoods by sending them in a telegram to Constantinople, three days before my return to Damascus, and before I could offer a word of explanation. His Report (May 30, 1871,) charged me with firing upon inoffensive people, and with sending in chains to Damascus sundry innocent persons, when he had himself issued the orders. His appeal was forwarded to the late Grand Vizier, Aali Pasha, under the circumstances usual in Syria, and that officer at once demanded my remov[illegible]

I exposed the untruths of the telegram, and I had the honour of laying before your Lordship the testimony of two clergymen of the Church of England, besides other English travellers who happened, fortunately, to be present, and who thus could testify to the moderation of my conduct under somewhat trying circumstances. The result, however, was a despatch from your Lordship (No. 1 of June 14, 1871), in which I was directed, until the receipt of further instructions, not to quit the seat of [illegible]y of Damascus. I need not say that I at once obeyed the order, [illegible] d unhealthiness, until compelled by illness, and [illegible] ry officer employed by the French Government, to follow the rest of the English colony to the m[illegible]

Rashid Pasha then affected to [illegible] Mountains w[illegible] a movement pregnant with evils to his administration. I went, in pursuance of repeated invitations sent to me by the friendly Chiefs of Druse villages, who had applied for my interest in establishing an English school. Rashid Pasha at once forwarded to Constantinople a mis-translation of the letter which I addressed to my friends, thus converting an unimportant into a very serious matter. I therefore despatched a true translation to Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople, and I am bound to suppose that it reached Her Majesty's Foreign Office.

Your Lordship's despatch (No. 3 of July 22, 1871) recalled me, however, to England, upon the grounds that certain complaints had been made against me by the Ottoman Government; and it was thus virtually assumed that ill-feeling on the part of the authorities and the people of Damascus has prevented the proper discharge of my official duties.

The testimonials herewith presented will, I believe, satisfy your Lordship that during my entire service as Her Majesty's Consul for Damascus I have been guided by the strictest impartiality in the performance of my duty, and that my conduct has not only received, but has, I trust, merited the approbation and support of the most respectable residents of all religions and of every condition. During my ten and a half years of Consular service I have been stationed upon the West Coast of Africa, in the Brazils, and in Syria. My first three years were spent in the Bight of Biafra, where I was successful in my endeavours to procure justice for British subjects; and I may fairly boast that, contrary to all precedent, during the proceedings necessary in attaining this object I was not the cause of a single village being burnt or of a life being taken. Throughout my four years of service in the Brazils I never had a dispute or even a difference with the authorities, and I can confidently refer your Lordship to Her Majesty's Envoy, Mr. Buckley Mathew, C.B., for his opinion as regards the

esteem in which I was held, or for the mode in which I performed my duties. Finally, I may venture to assert that in Syria, where I inherited all the most trying and difficult cases from my predecessors, I have left a name which will not readily be forgotten.

Under the circumstances, my Lord, I cannot but express the deep pain with which I received the communication of your Lordship's recall. I venture to trust that the statements and the corroborative evidence which I have now the honour of submitting [illegible] I shall have no cause, personally, to regret the consequences of the unjustifiable and unprovoked attack made upon me and upon my servants at Nazareth, or the offensive and hostile steps taken against me by the ex-Governor-General, Rashid Pasha. And I feel it my duty to my fellow-countrymen to represent the serious consequences to travellers if such outrages remain unreproved.

I have now the honour to lay before your Lordship various testimonials wholly unsolicited by me, and only recently forwarded, after my departure from Damascus. They consist of letters and addresses (each showing the sentiments of a tribe or com- [illegible] Nazareth; from Mr. Rattray, an English colonist of long standing in Syria; from three Druse chiefs Salim Beg Shams, Ali Beg-el-Hammadeh, and Hammed Nofal; from [illegible] chief inspector of the Great Amaui mosque; from various other personages, and from no less than fourteen villages in the vicinity of our summer quarters. The names of the latter have not been inserted, owing to a report now current that Rashid Pasha has been successful at Constantinople, and is about to return to Damascus, where his vindictive character is greatly feared.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

Inclosure in No. 80.

Testimonials.

(1.)

ALLAH favour the days of your far-famed learning and prosper the excellence of your writing. O wader of the seas of knowledge, O cistern of learning of our globe, exalted above his age, whose exaltation is above the mountains of increase and our rising place, opener by his books of night and day, traveller by ship and foot and horse, one whom none can equal in travel.

To His Excellency Captain Burton.

But afterwards, verily, we wondered at the suddenness of your departure, and we deeply regretted our not being present in the city when you honoured us with your farewell visit, and truly this greatly affected us. But as the thing was (to be), so we imagine that we had seen you from our personal friendship. This has been written and intrusted to the hands of your excellent Lady, manifesting our sorrow at your [illegible] excellencies of your qualities, of which the best is your zeal and devotion to the service of your country. We only hope that everything will turn out to you as happily as can be. It is our personal friendship to you which dictates this letter.

Your friend,
(Signed) ABD-EL-KADIR

Damascus, Jemad-el-tani 22, A.H. 1288.

(2.)

M. [illegible] *Damas, le* [illegible] 187

[illegible] avec surprise et regret [illegible] l'Angleterre; et cette surprise a été d'autant plus sensible qu'on avait répandu le bruit que vous alliez nous quitter pour toujours.

Probablement ces bruits proviennent de vos ennemis; mais quoi! à Damas vous n'aviez pas d'ennemis; tout le monde vous était ami. Vous étiez aimé, chéri, estimé, et [illegible] par les Musulmans; parce que [illegible] protecteur des opprimés et le défenseur de la justice. Vous aviez [illegible] par votre complaisance et votre extrême délicatesse, capturer le cœur des honnêtes [illegible] tous les intérêts. Il n'y avait que les gens pervers et corrompus qui se gênaient de votre présence et cherchaient votre éloignement. Les insensés! Ils ne veulent pas comprendre qu'en agissant de la sorte, ils ne font que suivre [illegible] les fils de Jacob, qui voulant empêcher Joseph de devenir Roi l'ont vendu à l'esclavage; et c'est précisément pour l'avoir rendu qu'il est devenu Roi; et ainsi ils ont été, sans le vouloir, l'instrument de la [illegible]

[illegible] de Sa Majesté Britannique ne [illegible] qui a mérité dans le pays le titre glorieux [illegible]

[illegible] eux sont tournés vers vous, M. le Consul, nos vœux vous accompagnent, et nos sympathies vous suivent partout où vous serez. Nous prions le bon Dieu de vous combler de ses bénédictions, et de vous donner toutes sortes de prospérité et de bonheur.

[illegible]ez, &c.
[illegible]

(Official Seal) JACOB GEOHARGI, *Vice-Général du Patriarche* [illegible]

(Official Seal) [illegible] *Arménien Ortho*[illegible]

A M. [illegible] Richard Burton,
Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique à Damas,
actuellement à Londres.

(3.)

M. le Consul, *Damas, le 8 Septembre, 1871.*

GRAND a été notre étonnement et profonds ont été nos regrets lorsque nous avons appris votre départ subit pour l'Angleterre. Et ce départ nous a été d'autant plus sensible qu'on a de suite répandu le bruit que vous ne reviendriez plus à Damas.

Ce sont probablement vos ennemis qui ont à dessein répandu cette fausse nouvelle. Mais quels ennemis? Vous ne deviez pas en avoir, puisque vous étiez aimé, chéri et [illegible] toutes les classes d[illegible]

Quoiqu'il en soit, si [illegible] ne plaise, ne pas revenir au milieu [illegible] absence et celle de Madame votre [illegible] une vérital[illegible] que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique ne [illegible] qui le représentait si bien, et qui a su, en si peu de temps, s'attirer l'estime de tout le monde.

En attendant, soyez persuadé, M. le Consul, que nos vœux et nos prières vous accompagneront partout où il plaira à Dieu de vous appeler. Je le prierai aussi de vous combler de ses plus abondantes bénédictions, et de vous faire prospérer dans toutes vos entreprises.

Agréez, &c.
(Official Seal) GREGOIRE JACOBE HELIANI,
Archevêque Syrien Catholique de Damas.

(4.)

From Damascus

Aylul 1, 1871.

TO his Excellency the Consul abounding in honour and in respect, whose praiseworthy qualities and remarkable gifts and superior graces and purity of heart, with all [illegible] which he has been gifted by Allah, and which draw our hearts to him in love, and cause us so deeply to regret his departure after we have been upon such friendly terms

I was indeed desirous of expressing my affection to you before we separated, in order to bid adieu to you in due form, but unfortunately we had no opportunity so to do.

Very great was our sorrow when we heard from your excellent lady that she intended to leave us this week. May her journey be prosperous to you both, and may you both increase in every worldly gift, and may you rise by her good aid and excellent qualities to the height of fame, and to spiritual and material greatness. And the Arab saying has proved true, "(A wise man) Shamm has met (the wise woman) Tabukah." We have begged her to offer to you our respects and explain to you the excess of our love to you, praying the Lord to prosper her journey, and that you may both return to us at once whenever the Holy Spirit shall please. Let us rejoice in seeing you both once more, and enjoy the benefits which you have both conferred upon us. Our desire is that we may again meet and renew our friendship, and thus obtain fruition of all our desires and ensure a continuance of our heartfelt affection. For that reason I offer myself as your servant even in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Your prayerful,

Signed MACARIOS, *Acting Patriarch in Damascus and the Hauran.*

(5)

[illegible] was printed in very imperfect, and in many places unintelligible

[illegible] *Nazaret, a 6 Emb.*, 1871

Seal per mezzo del Signor Zeller seppi il desiderio [illegible] vostra Signoria che domandava da me una dichiarazione del fatto successo, ma però in Francese, simile a quella spedita a vostra Signoria in Italian

Senza nessuna difficoltà e con piacere sarei stato pronto a scriverla, ma vostra Signoria ben sa che qui in convento non ci ha nessuno che scrive il Francese, e volendola fare, sarei costretto a chiamare uno di fuori, e chi trovare da potermi fidare? ed essere sicuro, se senza vedere niente seguitano a parlare contro di noi e della vostra Signoria che ne sarà se scendano di questa lettera. Io, Signor mio, ho creduto più opportuno di [illegible] Italiano, credo bene che in Inghilterra non poche [illegible] e perciò la potrà far tradurre in Francese, e così si evita ogni occasion [illegible] e perciò il Procuratore di vostra Signoria si vide costretto di far la protesta per due volte e tutte le due volte fu sospeso e non accettato. Adesa il Procuratore di vostra Signoria non volendo alla strada, ho pure [dato] autorità da presentarsi per far accettare la protesta al Pascià si presentò al Convento, e scritto la terza protesta. Io per mezzo di un mio frate la presentò al Pascià, ma il Pascià nel vederla rimase attonito, non potendola rifiutare, la prese, e voltatosi al Mamur di Damasco, che li era al fianco, li disse. Ecco prendetela che voi siete la causa di tutto questo, e perciò io non so niente, vedetevela voi. Ed il Pascià, dopo di aver stato per 17 giorni in Nazaret, quando era sul punto di partire mi mandò la risposta della protesta, che vostra Signoria già ne sarà del tutto informato.

Ecco quanto mi ho creduto in dovere di notificare alla Signoria vostra mentre passo a riverirla unito alla Signoria con tutto rispetto ho il bene di rifermarmi, &c.

Firmato) JR. ANGELO MARTINEZ, *Guardiano.*

(6)

Dear Captain Burton, *Damascus, August* 23, 1871.

WE were painfully surprised a few days ago by the intelligence that a despatch had been received from the Foreign Office, calling upon you to resign your position as British Consul in Damascus. We are quite at a loss to understand the motives for such a procedure. We can scarcely suppose that any one was bold enough to charge [illegible] We [illegible] reflection being made on your integrity, but have heard repeated testimony to the purity of your Consulate, and we can ourselves witness that your first official act was to replace dishonest by honest Dragomen.

On the other hand it seems to us highly probable that the very integrity which should have been your highest claim to the confidence of your superiors has proved the cause of your removal, by raising against you the bitter enmity of all, whether Turkish official or English protegé, whom your honesty disgusted or disappointed. Especially we have reason to believe that your straightforward course provoked the hatred of the Wali of Syria. This functionary, at once corrupt, treacherous, and incapable, prefers a Consul who is pliant to his will, and who knows how to shut his eyes on his rapacity, or even to be a sharer in his spoliations. What wonder that he should watch his opportunity to have removed a man whose conduct was a marked contrast to and a tacit reproach on his own

We conjecture that he caught hold of the affair of Nazareth, and sought so to colour it as to injure you with your own Government. It was easy for the Wali to represent you as having become unpopular with the people of Syria in consequence, just as easy as for him now to make it believed at Constantinople that he is himself a most popular Governor, though the contrary is notoriously the case. Still we fee, greatly surprised that an English Minister should be deceived by his representations, and remove from a position he worthily filled a faithful servant of his country

We think our testimony as [illegible] is that o[illegible]

[illegible]

WILLIAM WRIGHT, A.B.
JAMES ORR SCOTT, M.A.

My dear Captain, *Nazareth, September* 7, 1871.

I RECEIVED both your letters, and also one from Mr. Drake. You can easily [illegible] how astonished we were when we heard what course the Foreign Office had taken in your affairs. When the Greek Bishop first spread this news here I flatly contradicted him, till I heard from Mr. Drake. It seems your return to England is necessary, in order fully to expose the doings of the Wali of Damascus, who evidently has powerful friends. To-day I obtained the inclosed letter from the Superior of the [illegible] will contain the statements you require.

[illegible] made upon some of the workmen at the Church was ordered by the Wali, but led scarcely to any [illegible] and gave me so much trou[illegible] that I in future had much rather abstain from complai[illegible] These kind of inves[illegible] tions are only calculated to make a foreigner odious and no[illegible]

I shall be very glad to hear from you, if it is [illegible] and hope you may be able to obtain justice in England

Believe me, &c.

(Signed) JOHN ZILLER

In great haste

I have not heard what trick the Wali played you at St. Jean d'Acre. By next post I will write to you to London. It is scarcely necessary to say how much I regret your sudden departure

(8.)

Dear Captain Burton, *El Khoroibeh, Anti-Lebanon, August* 18, 1871.

I HAVE just heard of your departure for England, but can hardly realize the fact

My wife and myself are deeply grieved at the news, and indeed we have cause for regret, not only on account of losing friends, but for our personal safety; having settled down permanently here amongst somewhat dangerous neighbours we felt our chief security lay in your presence at Damascus, knowing the esteem and respect with which [illegible] M[illegible] is regard you, of course I except those who are employed by the Wali, [illegible] y one knows that the animosity of the Wali and his party arises from the fact [illegible] y[illegible] are aware of the bribery and corruption which pervades the whole system of

administration, and which has grown worse in his time than it was [illegible] predecessors. I do not believe any one of the Consuls in Damascus [illegible] cared to do anything but what the Wali pleased, [illegible] years of my residence in Syria I never knew the English name so much respected during the last twelve months. It is, however, selfish on our part to regret your departure, since both Mrs. Burton and yourself were probably glad to leave such a pestiferous hole as Damascus.

Believe me, &c.

(Signed) JOHN SCOTT RATTRAY.

(9)

To his Excellency [illegible]

AFTER inquiring about your honourable self, and committing you for ever to the charge of the Almighty King, I have the honour to state, that to my deep [illegible] recalled from the city of Damascus, and are about to proceed to England, has [illegible] us a prey to sorrow and trouble. We therefore supplicate Allah that your Excellency will return without loss of time, and all our people are grieving sadly, because your presence at Damascus was a safeguard and a protection to us. We intreat the Lord, who has ordained this separation, that we may again have the [illegible] your enlightened heart will not forget us. And may Allah prolong your life and!

(Signed) SELIM (*Beg Shami*)

Jemadi-el-Akar 25, A.H. 1288

(10)

Translation of Letter from Ali Beg el Hammadeh, Governor of the Druses in Lebanon.

To the high in mind and generous in manner, the excellent Bey. May Allah prolong his days!

AFTER presenting the usual compliments, and all due respect and [illegible] your life and prosperity, it is our duty to inquire after your well-being and [illegible] state. Secondly, since you left us going on the way of peace, you have filled our hearts with sorrow and regret; you have grieved our souls after the joy and pleasure we enjoyed. Such is the effect of your leaving this place and of taking from us the [illegible] our exalted countenance; we ever pray the Almighty one [illegible] will return to this place, and gladden our souls and joy our hearts, for He is [illegible] We are ever awaiting your Excellency, and we hope from the All-powerful that this may soon take place. Praise be to Allah, your fame and reputation, your [illegible] gifts and qualities are witnessed by all, great and small. May the Lord ever increase your prosperity and guide your ways, and direct you to the highest dignity and [illegible] in joy and happiness. This is the object in writing to you, in hopes of [illegible] us. All our brotherhood and tribes send to your Excellency their best wishes and inquiries, and know that we are ever awaiting to see you. May the Almighty prolong your days!

(Signed) ALI BEG EL HAMMADEH

Jemadi 15, A.H. 1288 (*Ab* 31, 1871).

(11)

From Hammad Nofal, Chief Druse of the Village of ———.

To the exalted in rank and dignity, his Excellency the Consul Bey. May Allah prolong his days!

AFTER many prayers to the Almighty Creator that your life will be long in the land, and your honour and prosperity ever increase and be exalted, we have to inform your Excellency, that having heard of your intended departure, we waited upon the lady, and we felt in despair when we heard the truth. We pray to the Almighty that the news may not be true, considering the kindness and goodness which you have bestowed upon us, and which has made us eternally grateful. Therefore we supplicate the Creator that things will not long endure in the present state. The reason of our writing is to know the truth of things, and to express the grief with which we have heard of your departure. And may Allah ever preserve you!

(Signed) HAMMAD NOFAL.

Aylul 12, 1871

(12)

Letter from Shaykh Mijwel-el-[illegible]

AFTER sending most affectionate greetings, and the great affection we offer your Excellency, it was our great misfortune that we did not see you when you came to our house, and we are very sorry for it; and after that we heard of your going to England grief and sorrow came heavily upon us, because we have never seen anyone equal to your Excellency in this country, for all those related to England are deeply indebted to you; and all the denominations, Moslem and Christian, were fully satisfied with your Excellency, and they are all very sorry at your leaving; but we ask the Lord of Mercy to send you back to us in good health, and to let us meet you soon. From [illegible] brothers, who send their greetings, and from all our Bedawi, who [illegible] salaams, and whatever you wish us to do tell us to do it, and peace be with you.

(Signed) MIJWEL-EL-MEZRED, *Chief of Mezreb Tribe.*

Jemadi 7, A.H. 1288.

(13.)

From the Bedawi Shaykh Abd-el-Hammad.

To his Excellency the Consul Effendi of the great English Government, &c.,

[illegible] best greeting and offering up many prayers for you [illegible] after hearing of your departure, I was sorely [illegible] house of the man who caused it! But if it please God you will soon return and overcome those who are jealous of you. I know that all those under your protection are very sorry for you, as you have been very good [illegible] creeds and denominations pray for your return to this land, and curse the other man, hoping for his speedy ruin. Allah is merciful [illegible]

ABD-I L-HAMMAD.

Jemadi 19, A.H. 1288.

(14.)

To the master of dignity and prosperity, of science and dignity, always the object of our hopes, sent to us by the Most High and Merciful God. Amen!

AFTER sending our duties and compliments to your noble person, I have the honour to state that I am still standing in the same truthful love that was between us, [illegible] the affection which was mutual, and in ever blessing and praying for you to the [illegible] High, supplicating Him that your star may always rise brighter and pour upon you its beneficent rays of largesse and generosity. The love of this your servant is too deep to be expressed by the pen, and it dates from the days when the disembodied souls met in hosts innumerable during the beginning of time. I doubt not that your enlightened heart will feel for me as I feel for you, and that no one may expel me from your memory. The excess of my affection impels me thus to write to you, hoping from the Lord that we may presently meet and renew our affectionate intercourse. May He prosper your return to us in the happiest state, and defend you from all enemies.

(Signed) AHMAD MUSALLIM, *El Ashrif at Damascus,*
Chief of the Great Mosque El Amawi.

Jemadi 15, A.H. 1288.

15

Damascus to London.

Aylul 8, 1871.

To his Excellency M. Burton, Consul of the Noble English Government in Damascus, &c.

AFTER asking about your valuable health, we felt great sorrow at your leaving us, and we always speak well of your good name, and of your justice; and we hope that you will reach London in safety, and that you will send us news of your safe arrival, and this we hope from your kindness, and that you will soon return to Damascus, for day and night we are looking out for your return in peace to this place, because in your days we experienced peace and quiet, and we met with nothing but good at your hands. It is not only we, but all the community, which is very grieved at your leaving, on account of what they saw of your just conduct and steadfastness to the truth. And your Lady's leaving is also a great grief to me, because she is going to England, and we hope you will let us know of her joining you in safety and happiness; and we beg God Almighty that we may soon see you both again in happiness and good fortune. These are my wishes, and may God Almighty spare you.

(Signed) ABD-EL-RAHMAN

(16)

To his Excellency.

Sir,

AFTER sending our best compliments and our love, which we do not measure, we heard that your Excellency went away, and a great grief came upon us; firstly, because your Excellency is separated from us, and secondly, that we did not see you before your leaving, which would have been a satisfaction; and thirdly, because you did not send the news to one who truly loves you. But in your great kindness you told no one of your going, that they might not trouble themselves.

By my life we never saw anyone like you, and we never heard of anyone who acted so well as you did in the way of mercy. And we pray God Almighty to let you return soon, and to renew for us the happiness that was, for He is merciful, and will compassionate us. Amen.

(Signed) MUSTAFA ABD-EL-RAHMAN
Kateb of the Mutasserrif of Damascus

(17.)

From the Sayyid Mohammed

To his Excellency Captain Burton, the Consul of Her Britannic Majesty's Government at Damascus.

AFTER inquiring about your precious health, I have the honour to declare, that [illegible] excellent ways and qualities. We hope that you have happily reached London, and will let us know of it, in order that our hearts may take rest about your health. And we hope, from your kindness, that you will let us know of your return to Damascus, as we expect you night and day, in health and well-being. During your time we enjoyed every happiness; and we saw from you nothing but good, not only we, but all the people are grieving at the separation. Considering how much of goodness in official matters they saw from you, and your preserving the paths of right. We equally regret the departure of your excellent Lady to join you; and we hope that she will travel in [illegible]. We also pray to Allah, that both of you may possibly return to us in health and prosperity, and may Allah prolong your days.

(Signed) SAYYID MOHAMMED.

Aylul 8, 1871.

(18.)

From Hasan Ayyus Aba Shadid.

To his Excellency our Lord the Fayyd Bey, of Her Britannic Majesty's Government at Damascus.

AFTER kissing your hands, your servants would state that they have heard with great regret of your departure for England; and we intended to have come and kissed your honourable hand. We pray the Creator that we may soon be blessed with the sight of you, and we ever take refuge under the wing of the Lord. We hope, from your kindness of heart, that it will not forget its servants, and we supplicate Allah to grant to you the greatest of victories, and crown you with a crown which shall last for ever, and peace be with you, according to our desire, and our services are ever at your disposal.

(Signed) HASAN AYYUS.

Jemadi-el-Tani 10, A.H. 1288.

(19.)

From Shahodat-el-Halabi and Kasim-el-Halabi, in the Maydan Quarter of Damascus.

To his Excellency the Consul Beg, of the British Government. May Allah prolong his days. Amen.

WE, your servants, intreat with heartfelt prayers, that your Government may increase in power and grandeur, and that the Creator may shower upon it His choicest blessings, and adorn it with all good gifts. Thus may it happen. Amen, O Lord of [illegible] pity upon us, and prolong your kindness to us, and your protection of us; and we shall ever expect and pray that we may again see you in the best of health; and we intreat the beneficent Lord that you may obtain all your desires in your official position to the fullest extent. And your servants will never cease to pray for your obtaining all your wishes.

(Signed) SHAHADAH.
KASIM

Jemadi 22, A.H. 1288.

(20.)

Translation of Letter from certain Moslem Divines, Merchants, and others, of Damascus.

FROM the day that Captain Burton came as English Consul to Damascus till now we saw no faults in him; and he did not listen to any false reports, but acted on truth [illegible] from any one. Any business that was just and legal he did it, but that which was bad and worthless he left alone. And we saw no bad in him; and he loved the Mohammedans, and those who were under him. And there never came from him anything but truth; and he always walked with justice, and hated none but the liars.

(Signed) MOHAMMED AWAR.
BIKRI ABDER TAHAN.
[illegible]
ABDU-EL-HABAL.
HASLIN-EL-AMARI
ABD-EL-WASHED ES SOUWAF
Sheikh MOHAMMED ALI
MOHAMMED SALEH (from the Mosque of Amawi).

(21)

Translation of Letter from ———.

To his Excellency, &c., the Consul of the great English Government.

AFTER asking after your Excellency's health, we hope to God that all is well We address your Excellency; for the moment we heard that your Excellency had gone to his country great sorrow came upon us by reason of the great kindness your Excellency has always shown us. For you always acted with goodness to us and our property, and in your time truth prevailed, and falsehood did not succeed. May God spare you for us, and return you to us in safety. Amen.

Signed and sealed by your Excellency's servants, all the people of , great and small.

(Signed) Sheikh MOHAMMED ALI
MOHAMMED HAMMED
KASIM HAMUD
HUSEYN HAMUD
IBRAHIM EL-GHAI
And many others.

11*th day of Jemadeh*, 1288.

(22.)

Translation of Letter from ———.

To his Excellency, &c., the Consul of the great English Government

[illegible] Almighty to protect you from all injury and harm, and to return you to us in safety, that you may protect us from all hurt, as you did before; for the moment you left our mind was distracted, and many thoughts came to us. We ask the Lord of the Universe and his Prophet not to take you away from us, but that you may protect us from all enemies and injuries as you did before; for you are good to all who are in difficulties, and protect them. May God make your days long, in the name of every prophet who worships the Lord of the Universe. Amen.

Your Excellency's servants, the men of ,

Seal of the Sheikh ALI YEHYEH.
" Sheikh MOHAMMED YEHYEH

(23)

From the Village of ———.

To his Excellency the Bey Consul for the Government of England, in Damascus. May his Honour live.

HOPING to gain your merciful favour and (please) your noble disposition. When the news reached us that your Excellency is going to your country, great sorrow and heartache came upon us, because we were slaves for your Excellency's service. Asking [illegible] triumph, the giver of good news of help from the Lord of the Universe; and wherever you go may the Apostle of God help you, in the name of the Lord of the Universe. And may the Lord hear our prayers for your return, and may He spare you for ever. Amen.

For your Excellency's servants, the inhabitants of , under the Government of Baalbek.

Signed and sealed by your Excellency's faithful Servant,

(Signed) MUSELSIM AYYUB.
(Official Seal)

11 *Jemadeh*, 1288 (*August* 25, 1871).

To his Excellency the Consul of England, &c., at Damascus.

(24)

Translation of a Letter from ———.

To his Excellency &c., the Consul of the Exalted English Government, and may God spare h[illegible]

YOU, our just Lord, whose hand is strong, why is it that you have acted thus and left us? This has all come from our bad fortune, for you were for us a shield, to protect us from all harm and injury, and preserve us from shame; for only in your time have we always enjoyed rest; for you have guarded our property, and do not allow our religion to be mocked; and you allow no one to cheat us. But what are we now to do, O Sir? For this order did not rest with us, but the order is with Him to whom it belongs, and He is the Lord Almighty; and we ask from Him in our first prayers that you may return to us in safety; and our longing for you is like the longing of a [illegible] h the Lord Almighty, because of your great kindness to us. We [illegible] by the name of the Most Excellent God (that we hope you will), [illegible] and if you do not come we will witness against you on the Judgment [illegible] ghty, for it is your duty to do good to the sons of Adam. And may you be spared for ever. Amen.

We beg of you to excuse us in taking such a liberty as this, but because our hearts are burning with fire on account of your leaving us we hope that you will not blame us.

Signed and sealed by the servants of your Excellency, the people of collectively

Seal of the Sheikh SULEYMAN MURAD.

(25.)

Translation of Letter from the People of ——— and ———.

To his Excellency Mr. Burton, Consul of the Honourable English Government. May God Almighty spare him.

AFTER [illegible] your noble hands with all honour and dignity, we address your Excellency. We, your servants, the Moslem Sheikhs of and (two villages), we have heard that your Excellency has gone to the land of England. [illegible] news may turn out for good, because we, the Moslems, are your [illegible] Excellency to us we should be utterly ruined, [illegible] es the truth for all people, and especially for us, the Moslems; you honour our religion, and love truth and mercy—an advocate of [illegible] again in a short time, for without your Excellency's help we shall be left destitute. We beg of your Excellency that you will have compassion on us, and return in peace, and soon; and may God grant that your Excellency may remain with us. And may your life be prolonged.

11 *Jemadeh*, 1288 (*August* 25, 1871)

The Mukhtar of the village of ———,
(Signed) ALI HUSAYN VASIF
The Khatib of ——— and of ———,
HUSAYN EZLD DIN.
The Sheikh of the village of ———,
ALI ABDER RAHMAN.

(26.)

Translation of Letter from —

WE, the Sheikhs, the Beys, and the Elders of , collectively, are [illegible] becoming neighbours of Captain Burton, Consul of the English Government at Damascus; and during his residence for the summer in Bhedun, which is near our

village, we did not find from him anything but justice and truthfulness both to Mohammedans and Christians. And we offered our duty and services to him, and thanked him for his kindness to us; and hoping that he will overlook all our shortcomings, we address this letter to him for his kindness to us.

11 *Jemadah*, 1288 (*August 26, 1871*).

(Twenty-three seals in all.)

(27.)

Translation of Letter from Seyad (descendants of the Prophet) living at ——————

To the Bey the English Consul, &c.

AFTER kissing the hands of your noble Excellency, we, the Seyad of , heard the news that your Excellency is recalled to England, and great sorrow and grief came over us. And we, the Seyad, were thinking of coming over and kissing your Excellency's hand; but the reason we did not is, that your Excellency went away to that land. We ask God Almighty to show us the light of your countenance in health, and not to prevent us from kissing your Excellency's hand. And your servants always [illegible] away from us. And may God make your days happy and well-being for us. And may you ever be victorious.

Signed and sealed by your servants,

The Seyad ALI ZAIN.
The Seyad AHMET ALI IBRAHIM
The Seyad HOSEAN SEYID ALI YUSAF

(28.)

Literal Translation of Letter from Moslem Sheikhs at ——————.

To reach with honour his Excellency and Highness, &c., &c., &c., the Consul of the English Government living at Damascus.

To your Highness and Excellency the Officer of England. May your life be prolonged and preserved.

AFTER inquiries for your Excellency, we hope from God Almighty that [illegible] your Excellency, but hope from God Almighty that He will soon show us your face again, because your Excellency is an advocate of justice, and especially for the Mohammedan religion, and loves all those who are dependent upon your Excellency, because [illegible]

7th day of Jemadeh, 1288 (*August 21, 1871*).

Your servants,

(Signed) ALI SHUMMAT (Sheikh of the Town).
MUSA KAMEL ED DIN
MUSTAPHA DAKDUK
HASAN KASIM AHMED

(29.)

Literal Translation of Letter from Moslems of ——————

To his Excellency the Bey, Consul of the Honourable English Government

WE address this petition to your Excellency—we, your servants, the Mohammedan [illegible] Excellency is gone to England, and we are in deep sorrow, which we cannot express to your Excellency, [illegible] on us, and return your Excellency to us in peace, because there is no Consul except your Excellency, who loves uprightness and mercy (and acts with them) to us the poor.

And without the compassion your Excellency showed to the poor in the last year, half the world would have died from hunger or in prison. And now all the world cries to God to return your Excellency to us, for we are very cast down without your Excellency. Your Excellency's commands will be commands

10th day of Jemadeh, 1288.

(Sealed and signed by six Sheikhs.)

(30.)

Translation of Letter from Moslems of ——————.

To His Excellency, our Master, the Consul of the Honourable English Government in Damascus. May his life be spared.

AFTER kissing your Excellency's hand, and because we, your servants, had the news that your Excellency is gone to England, a great sorrow came upon us, and we thought that we would be honoured with kissing your noble hands. [illegible] May your life be preserved. Amen.

10th day of Jemadeh, [illegible]

[illegible]
HASAN AGHA ABU SHEDID

(31.)

From the Village of ——————.

To His Excellency the exalted, the beneficent, the great, the glorious, the honoured [illegible] of the great Government of England at Damascus. May he ever prosper.

AFTER kissing your honourable hands and expressing our prayers for your being blessed by Allah the Almighty King, and your being raised to honour and dignity over us, it is our bounden duty to write inquires about you and to congratulate our souls by the tidings of your Excellency's return to our parts. This return to us would be the greatest of blessings. It is our duty, one and all, to kiss your hands, and now our brother Abu Ibrahim Mohammed wishes to kiss your Excellency's hands, and we both beg to offer you all our services.

(Signed by the Sheikh and Notables of the village of ——————.)

Jemadi-el-Akhar 18, A.H. 1288.

(32.)

Letter from the Village of ——————.

To His Excellency the Consul Bey of the great Government of England. May he and they ever prosper.

YOUR servants pray, with the strongest prayers, that the light of your Government may ever shine, and its honour and majesty may increase, and that the Lord will [illegible] Amen. [illegible] protection over them for all time, whilst your servants ever expect and look forward to the honour of serving you to their utmost; and they will ever pray, Sir, for your speedy return.

(Signed by two Sheikhs.)

Jemadi 20, A.H. 1288.

(33.)

From the Druses of the Village of ———

To His Excellency, the dew of great qualities, the exalted in mind, the generous and [illegible] may ever be preserved in welfare and dignity.

AFTER sending what is due and proper to your honourable self and your exalted qualities, and offering our respect, which passes all bounds, and expressing our gratitude to your glorious Government, may it never cease to be robed in honour and dignity and prosperity for ever and ever. [illegible] resident at [illegible] have the [illegible] et to your high orders and [illegible] s dignity ever endure, and its protect[illegible] y to those who are faithful to it. W[illegible] ess of your Government [illegible] you will be able to keep your eye upon us. All this induces us to expect the support of your faithful slaves' reputation, and they will do, Sir, all that you wish from them.

(Signed by six Sheikhs.)

Jemadi 2[illegible]

(34.)

From the Druse Village of ———, near Damascus.

To his Excellency, &c.

AFTER sending our compliments and greeting to the honourable and merciful person, offering all our respects to your noble Government, which is covered with glory and happiness and good fortune for ever, and offering to your Excellency, as your slaves, this paper to your merciful hands, the Druse community, natives, and strangers in and near Damascus, because we are your Excellency's obedient and trusty slaves, and the same to your noble Government, &c., the strength of the people, and because we belong to it, and we are but mortals, and grief and sorrow have come into all our hearts, and we all with one voice pray to the Highest, beseeching his Mercy that He will strengthen your noble Government in glory and happiness, and th[illegible] dressed in robes of honour and attain good fortune, and that you may [illegible] in health and happiness, and we hope that through your Excellency's kindness we may find favour with you, and we write this to show our obedience to you, and we are ready for any service that we can do for you.

(Government seal of Sheikhs and village of ———.)
Sheikh AKBAR ZAYN [illegible]
Sheikh YUSUF SHA[illegible]
Sheikh HOSAYN, A K.L.
Sheikh KHALIL IBY MOHAMMED
Sheikh HOSAYN EL KHOTIB

20 *Jemadeh*, 1288.

No. 81.

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(Received October 20.)

(Separate.)

My Lord, *Patras, August* 30, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to report that, in obedience to your order, I embarked at Beyrout on August 20, and arrived to-day at this port *en route* for England.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

No. 82.

Acting Consul Jago to Earl Granville.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 1.)

My Lord, *Damascus, September* 28, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith the copy of a despatch I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Embassy at the Sublime Porte relative to the state of affairs in this Pashalic.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THO. S. JAGO.

Inclosure in No. 82.

Acting Consul Jago to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Damascus, September* 29, 1871.

IN reporting to your Excellency the recall of Rashid Pasha, the Governor-General of this vilayet, I venture respectfully to offer for your perusal the following observations upon the state of matters in this Pashalic, begging your Excellency's kind indulgence for the deficiency which will be apparent, as, although my residence in the villayet had already given me some acquaintance with passing events, but a short time has elapsed since I have been in charge of this Consulate.

During Rashid Pasha's Administration expeditions were undertaken by him against the nomad tribes of Bedouins whose encroachments, accompanied by pillage and oppression, on the fertile parts of Syria and Palestine bordering on the Desert, had [illegible] attended these undertakings. The Arabs were reduced to subjection; the system of [illegible] camels seized, while the Arabs themselves were driven back to the Desert in a state which will prevent them resuming their depredatory habits for some time.

These salutary measures have removed, in a great degree, a source of exhaustion and misery from the country; and although isolated cases of robbery by small bands still occur, a great change for the better has necessarily taken place.

In the Houran things are quiet. The recall of the Vali puts an end, at least for a time, to the alleged intention of the Government of attempting by force to assimilate the Druses to the condition of the other parts of the country, in the matter of conscription and taxes.

The condition of the peasantry generally is far from re-assuring. The fiscal burdens, much increased since 1869, coupled with late deficient harvests, have pressed heavily upon them. The present crops are below the average, and should those of next year prove unfavourable, their lot will be, indeed, a hard one.

In the city of Damascus, perfect tranquillity prevails, and there is an absence of serious crime. The public force, aided by a system of espionage, seems to hold in check the turbulent spirits of the lower classes; while the Mushir, Izzeet Pacha, appears to be a man equal to an emergency.

The late bad harvests have had the two-fold effect of preventing exportation and curtailing the consuming power of the producer. Trade is stagnant, and commerce reduced to the lowest eb[illegible]

The troops in garrison here consist of about 4,000 men, besides about 1,500 irregular cavalry, large detachments having left lately for Beyrout and Aleppo. The state of the military chest may be judged by the fact that the men are mostly two and three years in arrears of pay. Recruiting of irregular horse and foot for service in the newly-created vilayet of the Yemen has been actively carried on during the past month. About 1,000 men have been enlisted from this neighbourhood among many persons of bad character, whose departure will prove a benefit to the country.

As regards the administration of justice, it is strongly tinctured with corruption and venality. The absence of the safeguards of public opinion, and of a European element in the population; the natural defects of Turkish administration when brought into contact with the vices inherent in the Arab character,—produce a state of things which leaves a very wide door open to improvement. The power given to the Vali,

when in Constantinople in 1869, of dismissing and appointing the Governors of the province, with the alleged view of checking rapacity, does not seem to have been efficacious; on the contrary, matters in this respect appear to have gone from bad to worse.

The Local Civil Exchequer, notwithstanding the heavy calls upon it of the Imperial Treasury, is not reduced to that penury which might be expected. Since the Vali's return from the capital, with the unlimited powers then conferred upon him, the sale of crown lands has been proceeded with, and has produced large sums. These, together with that portion of the booty taken from the Arabs, which found its way into the Treasury, have somewhat relieved the Department from the pressure of financial embarrassment.

The present season has been one of great sickness. The usual heats have much [illegible] of a pernicious character. There has been no suspicion of cholera, and the quarantine from Baghdad is still in force. The season is, however, too far advanced for a severe visitation of this epidemic.

The recall of the Vali has produced sensation. Petitions are going the round of the city and province for signature, praying the Porte to rescind the order for his recall. Remonstrances have been despatched to Constantinople, in the same sense, by the Spiritual Chiefs of the Christian and Jewish communities. The feeling among the people generally is one of satisfaction. Apart from the innate love of change, sorely tried by the unusual duration of his tenure of office, the exigencies of the tax-gatherer and assurer, the misery of the past winter, and the stagnation of trade, have [illegible] to increase the popularity of the Chief of the Executive among the poor; while the increase of peculation and corruption in all branches of the Administration, which followed his return from Constantinople, has neutralized the great esteem in which he was held up to that time by all classes.

The comparatively small Christian and Jewish communities view his departure with feelings akin to regret, owing to the toleration enjoyed under his rule, and the footing of equality upon which he has placed them with their Moslem fellow-subjects. As most, if not all, of the Governors and subordinate officials owe their [illegible] to him, his recall is regarded as the precursor of their removal.

The successor of the Vali is said to be Achmet Tawfik Pasha, of Kniah. He is said to belong to the old Turkish school, and a recurrence to the policy of that party, as opposed to that of progress, with which Rashid Pasha is identified, is looked forward to with impatience by some and with anxiety by others.

The Vali informs me that he will await his successor's arrival, which will probably be in about a month.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THO. S. JAGO.

No. 83.

Earl Granville to Consul Burton.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 25, 1871.*

I HAVE received your letter of the 16th instant of October, recapitulating, with reference to the [illegible] of Her Majesty's Consulate, the several employments in Her Majesty's Consular Service which you have successively held.

I do not think it necessary to follow you through that recapitulation, or to enter into any review of your conduct in the post which you last held. I am willing to give you credit for having endeavoured, to the best of your ability and judgment, to carry out the duties which were entrusted to you [illegible] and I do not consider it necessary to maintain a full Consul at Damascus, at a cost to the public, including salary and allowances, of 1,000*l.* a year, your withdrawal from that residence necessarily followed on the appointment of an officer of lower rank and at a lower rate of salary, to perform the Consular duties in that place.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 84.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 138. Commercial.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 14, 1871.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a translation of the telegram of the Kaimakam of Syria, in answer to the order of the Grand Vizier to protect Mr. Tyrwhitt Drake and all other British subjects.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 84.

Raouf Pasha to the Grand Vizier.

Translation.)
(Telegraphique.) *Le* [illegible] *September* [illegible] *October*, 1871.

I HAVE had the honour to receive the telegram in cypher from your Highness, dated September 15th, with reference to a British subject named Mr. Drake. It results from the inquiry made that Mr. Drake is a relative of Captain Burton, late British Consul [illegible], that he has been travelling during the last six months in various parts of Syria, and is now at Damascus. Some days ago he obtained a Bunyrouldi from the local authorities for the purpose of going to Aleppo, his object being neither to prejudice the Government nor for the purpose of commerce. But that having already given evidence before the Judicial Council of this Vilayet in the matter of a quarrel which occurred between the Consul Captain Burton and some Christians at Nazareth, his object was merely to report what he knew of this affair. For his protection on the road [illegible] and applied for an escort of mounted sabretaches (police), and, as regards this and other assistance required by him from the local authorities, all has been arranged to his satisfaction by the British Consulate through the Government Interpreter. That he [illegible] with [illegible].

With reference to the question of "ill-treatment," I can only say that no one has [illegible] of Mr. Drake or of any other foreign subject having been ill-treated. However, [illegible] not allowing the possibility of any such thing, so contrary to your Highness' orders, taking place, I have transmitted, confidentially, your Highness' instructions, together with strong recommendations on my own part, to the Governors of the provinces dependent on this Vilayet, and you may be assured that all my energies will be devoted to the preservation of good order in the country temporarily confided to my charge.

No. 85.

Consul-General Eldridge to Earl Granville.—(Received November 11.)

(No. 41.)
My Lord, *Beyrout, October 23, 1871.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 38 of the 19th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Acting-Consul Jago, reporting the refusal of the Rev. Mr. Wright to accept a Government escort during a journey he has undertaken through the Desert, to the north-east of Damascus.

This is a practical proof that Mr. Wright is not apprehensive of any danger, whatever his friends in England may think.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure in No. 85.

Acting Consul Jago to Consul-General Eldridge.

Sir, *Damascus, October 20, 1871.*

HAVING heard that the Rev. Mr. Wright of this city intended proceeding to-day to Jerûd, Yabrûd, and Nebk, situated in the Desert, to the north-east of

Damascus, on business connected with his mission, and having in mind the instructions relative to this gentleman which you gave me in connection with a telegram you had [illegible] allowing me to provide him with a Government escort.

While acknowledging that he was taking the outer road to Jerfil, through the Desert, a route at all times exposed to Bedaweens, he positively declined to take an escort, stating that he was proceeding in the company of Yussuf Daoud, a Christian notable of Nelk, a man of courage and influence, and that he considered the escort of this person and his retainers a sufficient protection. Yussuf Daoud was present, and when consulted, supported Mr. Wright in his view of the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THO. S. JAGO.

No. 86.

Consul Burton to Earl Granville.—(Received November 15.)

(Separate.) 14, *Montagu Place, Montagu Square, London,*
My Lord, *November 12, 1871.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of October 25, 1871.

It is gratifying to me to find that the cause of my recall from Damascus is not on account of any erroneous impression that ill-feeling existed against me on the part of the authorities or the people of Syria. This circumstance will render it unnecessary to trouble your Lordship with many other testimonials lately forwarded to me from the British-protected Jews of Tiberias and Safed, from the Druses, from the villages about Damascus, and from other sections of the community.

It is, however, my duty to lay before your Lordship the ingratitude [illegible] salary, to perform the Consular duties in Damascus. In my despatch of July 24, 1871,* ("Consular changes, suggestions") I had the honour to point out the serious detriment to the public service resulting from Her Majesty's Consulate-General being placed at Beyrout, whilst in Damascus, the head-quarters of the Province, the residence of the Governor-General and of the High Courts of Appeal Her Majesty's Government is represented by an officer of inferior rank. It will not have escaped your Lordship's notice that Syria, and especially Damascus, are at present in an abnormal state of excitement, that a religious movement of an unexampled nature is shaking the foundations of Mahomedanism, and that the danger to British subjects and protected persons—I might say to all Christians, native and foreign—threatens to become [illegible] believe, very imperfectly understood even at Beyrout.

[illegible] to your Lordship's notice. But I should be deservedly subject to blame did I neglect to lay before you the state of affairs in Syria, and to suggest for your consideration the measures by which serious consequences to British influence, and to the lives and property of English subjects, may be avoided.

With respect to my own future employment, it only remains for me to place myself at your Lordship's commands, in the assured hope that such employment will be of a nature to mark that I have not forfeited the approbation of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD F. BURTON.

No. 87

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 144. Commercial.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 6, 1871.*

I [illegible] that I had proposed to the Porte that the Nazareth affray should be investigated by

* No. 83.

a Commission, and, the suggestion having been acceded to, I have the honour to inclose the copy of a telegraphic instruction which has been sent to the Governor-General of Syria, directing him to carry it out.

After sending my former despatch, it seemed to me that it would be more desirable for Mr. Lionel Moore, who was on the point of returning from Egypt, to come by way [illegible] find, with regret, that his health rendered it impossible for him to do so.

I have therefore directed Mr. Noel Moore, Her Majesty's Consul at Jerusalem, by the instruction of which a copy is inclosed, to attend the investigation, and see that it is properly conducted.

I have, &c.
[illegible] HENRY ELLIOT.

P.S.—I likewise inclose the copy of a despatch I have addressed to Mr. Jago, requesting him to give every assistance to Mr. Consul Moore in his inquiry.

H. E.

Inclosure 1 in No. 87

Aali Pasha to Rashid Pasha.

(Translation.) 1 *Shaban*, 1288 (*October* 16, 1871.)

COPIES of despatches previously received from your predecessor with reference to the improper conduct of Captain Burton, late British Consul at Damascus, in the affair of the Greek Church at Nazareth, have already been forwarded to your Excellency. [illegible] re satisfaction not being felt as to the truth of the strange proceedings imputed to Mr. Burton, a fresh investigation has become necessary, and, as was proposed by Rashid Pasha himself, a Commissioner on the part of the British Embassy is to be sent down with this object.

After consultation with the British Ambassador, Mr. Moore has been appointed. On his arrival, therefore, the facts will be thoroughly inquired into under your [illegible] superintendence, and, should it turn out on the conclusion of the investigation that Ottoman subjects be guilty in this matter, it will be your Excellency's duty, in conformity with orders contained in my despatch of 29th August, to take legal measures for their punishment.

Inclosure 2 in No. 87

Sir H. Elliot to Consul Moore.

Sir, *Therapia, November 6, 1871.*

IN the month of May an affray took place at Nazareth, in the course of which Captain Burton, Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus, and several of his servants, were more or less severely hurt.

As it is requisite that the circumstance should be thoroughly investigated, in order that it may be ascertained how the disturbances occurred, and who are the parties to be held responsible for it, it has been determined that it shall be inquired into by a Commission, and instructions to this effect have been sent to the Governor-General by the Vizier's letter, of which the translation is inclosed.

I have to request you to inform the Governor-General that you [illegible] to take part in this inquiry on behalf of Her Majesty's Embassy, and that you are ready to proceed to Nazareth to meet the Commissioner who may be appointed by his Excellency for that purpose.

I inclose a copy of Captain Burton's Report of the occurrence, containing a statement from Mr. Tyrwhit Drake, who was present at the time, and from whom you will be able to obtain further information, if necessary.

You will be careful to see that the investigation is full and impartial, and that any evidence that is brought forward is fairly received and considered.

You will especially report whether the persons who have been already tried are those who appear really to have been the guilty parties, and whether their sentences [illegible]

improperly allowed to escape, you will at once call upon the authorities to take the necessary steps for their adequate punishment.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 87.

Sir H. Elliot to Acting Consul Jago.

Sir, *Therapia, November* 6, 1871.

A COMMISSION, upon which Mr. Consul Moore will attend on behalf of Her Majesty's Embassy, is about to investigate the circumstances of the affray at Nazareth, in which Captain Burton and his servants were hurt.

You will afford Mr. Moore any assistance in your power in the way of procuring the evidence of Captain Burton's servants, or others who may be at Damascus, and who were present at the time.

If you have the means of communicating with Mr. T. Drake, I have to request you to inform him that this Commission is about to investigate the occurrence, and that I should be obliged to him if he would furnish any information in his power to guide Mr. Moore in his proceedings.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 88.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 145. Commercial.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November* 6, 1871.

IN the beginning of September Mr. Tyrwhit Drake sent me the letter of which the copy is inclosed, respecting the trial of the persons implicated in the Nazareth affray. Although it would have been more regular on the part of Captain Burton to have left the superintendence of the proceedings to Her Majesty's Consular Officers, I did not think it expedient to make any difficulties in affording Mr. Drake every assistance in acting for him; and I inclose copies of the answer which I returned to him, and of an instruction to Mr. Consul-General Eldridge, directing him to afford Mr. Drake every assistance he might wish to have.

I have now received from Mr. Eldridge the despatch, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, in reply to my communication.

From it, and from the inclosure from Mr. Jago, your Lordship will observe that Her Majesty's Consul-General and the Acting Consul at Damascus having been to the last kept in ignorance of everything connected with that occurrence, it has been impossible for me to have much light thrown upon it through their agency.

Mr. Drake's letter betrays a wish to rake up grievances which Mr. Eldridge and Mr. Jago do not appear to consider to have a real existence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 87.

Mr. Drake to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Damascus, September* 11, 1871.

IN a despatch, Separate, dated the 20th ultimo,* addressed to your Excellency by Captain Burton, he expressed a wish that I should act as his agent in pursuing the Nazareth business.

As yet I have not been able to obtain the official *mazbatah* of the Court at Akka, and your Excellency knows the Report furnished by Captain Burton's agents, Messrs Finzi and Barbour, of that place.

* Inclosure 1 in No. 70.

I applied some twenty days ago to Mr. Jago, then in charge of Her Majesty's Consulate here, to obtain the decision from the Serai. The Wali promised that, as soon as he received it, he would forward it; but, as your Excellency knows, the promises of this man are worse than valueless. His agent, Ottoman Bey Mardum Bey, returned to Damascus on August 31. The Wali left that night suddenly for Beyrout, and on the 8th instant Mr. Jago left for Aleih. There are now only dragomans left in charge of Her Majesty's Consulate, and, of course, no business of importance like this can be done, especially as Mr. Hasif Masbekah, who is now left, and has been in charge several times during the Consulships of Mr. Rogers and Captain Burton, is in very bad health, and can seldom, if ever, come to the office.

I am not the only person who has to lament this state of things; but the complaint is general, and it would be curious—if it were not humiliating—to observe how low English influence has sunk since Captain Burton's departure.

On the day of his (Captain Burton's) leaving Damascus, the Wali attempted to arrest the leaders of the secret Christians, who have turned from Mahommedanism but not openly declared themselves, but, owing to the courageous attitude taken by M. Awadys, dragoman of Her Majesty's Consulate, the matter became too public for extreme measures.

On August 23rd the Protestant missionaries at Rushegga were prevented from putting an inclosing wall to their school-house. Mr. Jago procured two orders from the Serai, purporting to be to the effect that the building should go on, but in reality they were useless. An order of this kind is even worse than useless, for it gives the natives opportunity to laugh in the beards of the English, who are now sinking to the political level of Greece and Spain in this country.

I shall be glad if your Excellency will inform me what course I had better pursue with regard to the Nazareth affair. I may add that the Protestants at Nazareth have been seriously annoyed by the exultant Greeks, whose Bishop boasts everywhere that he has dismissed the English Consul. The Wali, too, takes this act to himself, but only gains credence with the ignorant, for he is universally execrated and detested by all sects, especially by the Moslems, who respected and admired Captain Burton, and from whose chiefs and religious Sheikhs I have received more than twenty letters to forward to Captain Burton, urging him to return, if not for his own good, for that of Syria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHAS. F. TYRWHIT DRAKE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 88.

Sir H. Elliot to Mr. Drake.

Sir, *Therapia, September* 20, 1871.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, which reached me yesterday.

In the despatch to which you alluded Captain Burton informed me that he had appointed you his agent, but I have no further information of any proceedings in reference to the Nazareth business than was contained in that despatch.

Upon learning from it that the trial of the persons implicated in the affray was to be heard on appeal at Damascus, I at once requested and obtained from the Porte an order that the case should be thoroughly and impartially inquired into, and that those who were known to have taken part in an attack upon Her Majesty's Consul should be duly punished.

Instructions were at the same time given to Her Majesty's Acting Consul, whose duty it will be to see that the matter is properly dealt with; and Mr. Consul-General Eldridge will give you any information which you may desire as agent for Captain Burton, of whose exact position in reference to the persons on trial I am not aware.

It was satisfactory to me to find from your letter that none but the ignorant consider Captain Burton's recall to have been the act of the late Wali, and his successor being enjoined to cultivate good relations with Her Majesty's Consulate, it may be hoped that the late differences may shortly be forgotten.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 88.

Sir H. Elliot to Consul-General Eldridge.

Sir, *Therapia, September* 26, 1871.

I INCLOSE the copy of a letter which I have received from Mr. Tyrwhit Drake, and the answer, under flying seal, which I have returned to him.

Although I am unacquainted with the object for which he is acting as Captain Burton's agent, I have to request you to give him any information which he may wish in reference to the trial of the persons implicated in the Nazareth affray.

I have to request you to give me any information in your power in reference to the intended arrest of the Christian leaders, and to the impediments to the buildings of the Protestant schools alluded to by Mr. Drake.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 88.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Beyrout, October* 23, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to receive your Excellency's despatch of the 26th ultimo, transmitting to me a copy of a letter addressed to you by Mr. Drake, and the answer under flying seal.

As I was ignorant, till I received your despatch, that Mr. Drake was acting as agent for Captain Burton with respect to the Nazareth affray, concerning which, except what I received from your Excellency, I was without any reliable information, neither did I know anything of the intended arrest of the Christian leaders, nor of the impediments to the buildings of the Protestant schools alluded to by Mr. Drake; I therefore applied to Mr. Acting Consul Jago for information on these subjects, and I have now the honour to inclose a copy of the Report of that gentleman, which, according to my humble judgment, explains them satisfactorily, and I trust it will meet with your Excellency's approval.

The allusions of Mr. Drake to the humiliation brought upon the English influence in Syria by the recall of Captain Burton (whose personal influence must have been prodigious if his absence was so severely felt in three weeks) I pass without further notice.

For the absence of Mr. Jago from Damascus, which Mr. Drake mentions, I am entirely responsible. Mr. Jago was sent to Damascus at the most unhealthy season of the year; he was, from the uncertainty as to the length of his stay, obliged to take up his quarters at the hotel, which is situated in the worst part of the town, consequently, both he and his servants caught severe fevers, which were unusually pernicious this season. I therefore invited him to stay in Mount Lebanon, in order to shake off the disease he had contracted, which was impossible so long as he remained at the hotel at Damascus.

Mr. Jago, after a stay with me of ten days, entirely recovered, and returned to Damascus.

I have the honour further to transmit, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Jago,* reporting the refusal of the Rev. Mr. Wright to accept a Government escort during a journey he has undertaken through the desert to the north-east of Damascus.

I have forwarded a copy of this despatch to Earl Granville, as it will serve as a practical proof that Mr. Wright is not apprehensive of any danger, whatever his friends in England may think.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

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* Inclosure in No. 89.

Inclosure 5 in No. 88.

Acting Consul Jago to Consul-General Eldridge.

Sir, *Damascus, October* 20, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch dated the 17th instant, inclosing the copy of a despatch which you have received from Her Majesty's Ambassador, containing as inclosure, the copy of a letter addressed to his Excellency by Mr. Tyrwhit Drake, and you request me to furnish you with a Report on the matters mentioned in Mr. Drake's letter.

With regard to the Nazareth business, the only application which I have received on the subject is a request from Mr. Drake to be furnished with a copy of the mazbatta of the Nazareth and Acre Tribunals; this I have obtained; but, as Mr. Drake left Damascus on the 2nd instant, I am unable to deliver it, not knowing where he is to be found. I was not aware that he was acting as Captain Burton's agent in the matter till the 26th September, when he mentioned the fact in a written application for the mazbatta, and until the receipt of your present despatch I was ignorant that his reason for asking for it was connected with any intention or wish of Captain Burton to pursue the case, or that such intention or wish existed.

With reference to the intended arrest of the so-called Christian leaders, I have to state that a few days after my arrival in Damascus, Mr. Anedis, one of the Dragomans of the Consulate, came to me late at night, and informed me that one Tahir Effendi Muradi, a Moslem Damascene, who, he asserted, had secretly become a Christian, was passing his house that evening in company with a friend one Sahar, also alleged to be a secret Christian, when they stopped to speak to him in the street; that two zaptiehs came up and arrested them for a breach of a Municipal regulation; that he remonstrated with them for arresting the men so near his door, and ended by inviting Tahir and his companion into his house; that the police thus foiled, communicated with their chief, who marched down a large body of men into the Christian quarter and occupied the streets leading to the house; that they made no attempt to invade his domicile, but remained in waiting until he had obtained my instructions in the matter. In reply to my queries, Mr. Anedis informed me that Tahir Effendi had some time before reported to him, under a solemn promise of secrecy, the fact of his being a Christian, and had also pointed out his companion Sahar as being one; that the fact was kept a profound secret from all, and that therefore he did not connect their arrest with it, as the authorities were necessarily ignorant of their change of faith. I told Mr. Anedis that he was wrong in sheltering the men from the police under any circumstances; that there were other means more efficacious of securing protection from oppression when such existed, which, however, by his own showing did not seem to be the case in the present instance. I reminded him that only a few months before, a criminal fleeing from justice, and who had been permitted to take refuge in the British Consulate in the absence of Her Majesty's Consul, had succeeded in thereby making his escape and evading punishment, and that the matter had given rise to the just complaint of the authorities.

I directed him to decline harbouring the men any longer; this he did. They were arrested and conveyed to prison, and next morning, when I sent to inquire into the nature of the charge against them, I found that they had been liberated after an interrogation, which, according to their own statement, was limited to the charge of being abroad without a lantern.

Mr. Anedis is an Armenian Catholic of Damascus; he is a simple, well-meaning man, but is much influenced by the Père Naggian, the Superior of the Lazzarist Convent here, a person addicted to secret proselytizing. By his agency Mr. Anedis made the acquaintance of Tahir Effendi, and became the recipient, in some degree, of the secrets and views of a party alleged to have secretly turned from Islam to Christianity.

He was requested by Her Majesty's late Consul, according to his own statement, to inquire into the so-called Christian movement in Damascus, and I cannot dispossess my mind of the belief, after much research into a matter involved in much obscurity, that his zeal and friendship for Père Naggian and Tahir Effendi, have led him to identify himself unknowingly with the ostensible views of a secret society, the importance of which is extremely doubtful, but which seems to be governed more by hopes of temporal than spiritual benefits.

With regard to the impediments to the buildings of the Protestant schools at Nasheyn, I have to state that none exist. The circumstances alluded to by Mr. Drake are as follows: the Rev. Mr. Wright applied to me for an order to the Kaimakam of

Nasheya, to withdraw his opposition to the erection of certain small buildings. As such opposition was at direct variance with my experience of the action of Turkish officials in Syria in matters appertaining to British schools, I requested Mr. Wright to tell me plainly what it arose from; he replied that he believed it proceeded from a pique resulting from an idea that he was in some way connected with certain letters which had appeared in the Levant Herald, reflecting upon local functionaries in reference to the Nasheya schools and other matters. I applied to the authorities in Damascus for an order, which however the Kaimakam evaded; a second having had no better result, I called upon the Mutasarif, who expressed his regret, and at once dispatched a messenger to Nasheya, and removed the obstruction. The English missionaries have thought proper to express to me their indignation at the publication in the public press of this matter, and their intention of writing a letter to remove the impression sought to be conveyed. I begged them, however, not to do so. I may add—perhaps needlessly—that neither they nor myself apprehended difficulty in obtaining from the authorities the same facilities and support for the Damascus Mission as are conceded to other British Missions in Syria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THO. S. JAGO.

Inclosure 6 in No. 88.

Acting Consul Jago to Consul-General Eldridge, October 20, 1871.

[See Inclosure in No. 85.]

No. 89.

Consul-General Eldridge to Earl Granville.—(Received November 21).

(No. 44)
My Lord, *Beyrout, November 4, 1871.*

I HAVE had the honour to receive Mr. Hammond's despatch of the 14th ultimo, transmitting to me an extract from the "Globe," and instructing me to report what foundation there is for the statement that Mr. Jago has left Damascus, and if it is true, the reasons for his having done so.

In reply I have the honour to report, that the statement of Mr. Jago having left Damascus for a few days in the early part of September is perfectly true, but that the reasons given for his having done so are entirely devoid of foundation.

The facts are as follows:—

During the summer and autumn of the present year the fevers that prevail in Damascus at that season were unusually severe and dangerous.

Mr. Jago was obliged to live at the only hotel, which is situated in a most unhealthy part of the town, and shortly after his arrival both he and his servant were taken ill. As I knew that these fevers frequently end fatally, especially with new comers, who are not acclimatised, and that the only remedy is change of air, I urged Mr. Jago, if he had no pressing business, to leave Damascus for a few days, offering him hospitality; he accepted my invitation, and the day following his arrival at Aleih he had a severe attack of fever, accompanied by delirium, which necessitated my sending some distance for a medical man.

After remaining eight or ten days, Mr. Jago's health having improved, he returned to Damascus.

Neither during his stay with me, nor in his correspondence, has Mr. Jago mentioned that he felt "alarmed at certain demonstrations of dissatisfaction on the part of the natives," nor even that any such demonstrations were made, therefore I can only qualify that statement as entirely unfounded, as well as most of the others in Mr. Palmer's letter.

From my knowledge of Mr. Jago I have no hesitation in saying that he would be the last man to take "advantage of an opportune fever" to desert his post in a moment of danger, or at a time when the public service might suffer by his temporary absence. He was incapacitated by serious illness from efficiently performing his duty, and he availed himself of the only remedy, change of air.

I trust the above explanation will prove satisfactory, and that Mr. Jago's and my conduct will meet with your Lordship's approval.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

No. 90.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 128. Commercial.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 23, 1871.*

I HAVE to acquaint your Excellency, that under the circumstances stated in your despatch, No. 144, Commercial of the 6th instant, I approve Mr. Consul Moore being a Member of the Commission to inquire into the disturbances at Nazareth, when Captain Burton and his party were assaulted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 91.

Mr. Hammond to Consul-General Eldridge.

(No. 28.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 24, 1871.*

I AM directed by Earl Granville to state to you, that the explanation given in your despatch No. 44 Consular, of the 4th instant, relative to certain statements made in the "Globe" newspaper respecting Mr. Jago, is satisfactory.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. HAMMOND.

No. 92.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received December 9.)

(No. 160. Commercial.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 28, 1871.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose to copy of a Memorandum from the Porte, and of my reply respecting the sentences passed by the Correctional Tribunal of St. Jean d'Acre upon various persons concerned in the affray at Nazareth.

I have called upon Consul-General Eldridge for a complete Report upon the trial, and especially upon the facilities of defence which may have been afforded to persons connected with the Damascus Consulate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 92.

Memorandum by the Sublime Porte.

Sublime Porte, November 26, 1871.

L'AMBASSADE de Sa Majesté Britannique connait l'incident survenu, il y a quelque temps, entre les gens du Consulat-Général d'Angleterre à Damas et quelques habitants de Nazareth.

La Sublime Porte s'était empressée d'enjoindre aux autorités Impériales du Vilayet de Syrie de procéder à une enquête afin de découvrir et de punir les coupables. Il résulte d'un récent Rapport de ces autorités que le Tribunal Correctionnel de Sainte Jean d'Arc, appelé à juger l'incident dont il s'agit, a condamné les nommés Gorgi Suleyman, Halil Youssouf, Gergis, habitants de Nazareth, ainsi que Habib, domestique du Consulat, conformément à l'Article 179 du Code Pénal, à deux mois d'emprisonnement, et à un mois de détention les nommés Elias et Georgios Verver, également

habitants de Nazareth; ainsi que les employés du Consulat, nommés Sayaraled, Antouno et le cavas Mehmed.

Ce jugement a été déjà dûment communiqué au Consulat d'Angleterre à Damas, et le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères s'empresse d'en porter le contenu à la connaissance de l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté Britannique.

Inclosure 2 in No. 92.

Memorandum by Sir H. Elliot.

Therapia, November 28, 1871.

HER Majesty's Embassy has had the honour to receive the Memorandum of the Sublime Porte, communicating the sentence passed by the Correctional Tribunal of St. Jean d'Acre upon various persons concerned in the affray at Nazareth.

The whole of the circumstances relating to that affair being about to be investigated by the Commission nominated for that purpose, it is not at present necessary for Her Majesty's Embassy to do more than state that the accounts which have been received do not tend to show that the inquiry at St. Jean d'Acre was of a nature calculated to meet the requirements of the case.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 92.

Sir H. Elliot to Consul-General Eldridge.

Sir, *Therapia, November* 28, 1871.

I INCLOSE the copy of a Memorandum from the Sublime Porte, communicating the sentences passed by the Correctional Tribunal of St. Jean d'Acre upon the various persons connected with the affray at Nazareth last spring.

I have to request you to report as fully as you are able upon the manner in which that trial was conducted, and especially whether due facilities were afforded to persons connected with the Consulate of Damascus for obtaining the evidence they might require for their defence.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 93.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 136. Commercial.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 11, 1871.

I APPROVE the language held by your Excellency in the Memorandum which you handed to the Sublime Porte, and of which a copy is inclosed in your despatch No. 160, Commercial, of the 28th ultimo, relative to the inquiry into the affray at Nazareth before the Correctional Tribunal of St. Jean d'Acre.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.